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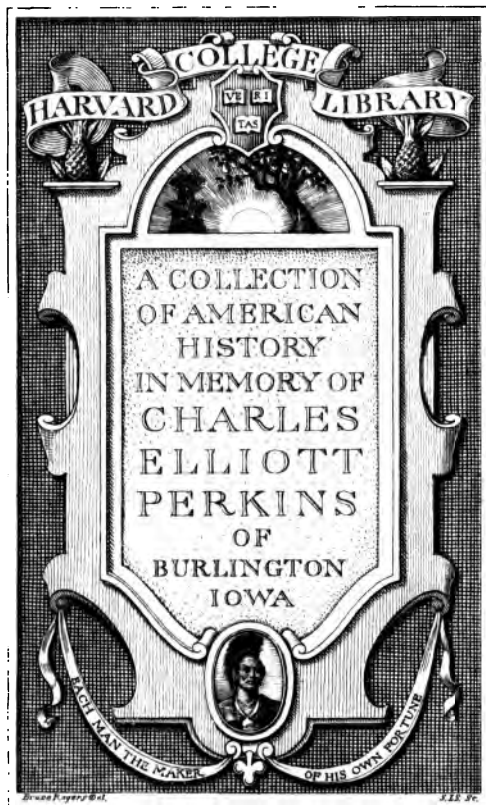
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THE  
HIGH LIGHTS  
OF  
ARKANSAS  
HISTORY



BY  
DALLAS T. HERNDON

SECOND EDITION

*Second Special Edition Printed for Distribution*  
*by*  
THE ARKANSAS HISTORY COMMISSION









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## WHY?

There is in the history of the State of Arkansas no want of the sort of material which makes for a flavor of individuality. In the choice of things chosen for this narration of events—chosen and arranged to tell the story of the growth of enterprise and what not wrought in Arkansas in the space of nearly four centuries since the time of DeSoto—the aim has been to choose those things which have made the history of Arkansas different—which give it its flavor of interest quite its own. But last, and first also—first as the motive for “playing up” the “high lights” of the history of Arkansas like street lights, hung one at every street corner, that those who pass may see the way plainly—the story of Arkansas is told here step by step, one thing at a time and everything in the order of its doing, each so that any who should like such a work may have by him a handy manual of the really significant facts concerning the history of the State.







## HIGH LIGHTS OF ARKANSAS HISTORY

1541-1921

### HERNANDO DE SOTO (1541).

The first white men entered what is now the State of Arkansas June 18, 1541. Charles V, King of Spain, commissioned Hernando de Soto, 1538, governor of Cuba and general of Florida. DeSoto landed in Florida May 31, 1539, near where the city of Tampa now stands, with a military force of a thousand men. He had been commissioned by the king to explore Florida, as then the whole Mainland of North America was called. After due preparation the expedition set out for the interior. During the next two years, from the middle of 1539 until June, 1541, they traveled more than a thousand miles, through the present States of Florida, Georgia Alabama and Mississippi. Like the other early Spanish explorers, DeSoto's first aim was to discover mines of gold and silver, whence no great care was taken, perhaps, to write out a proper journal of the expedition. Luis Hernandez de Biedma, one of the party with DeSoto, kept a brief diary. A Portuguese adventurer, who signed himself "A gentleman of Elvas," also of the party, wrote a narrative of his adventures. From these two accounts, as the principal sources of information, the route of DeSoto in his wandering east of the Mississippi has been traced with tolerable accuracy. That he crossed the Mississippi River on June 18, 1541, is certain. But the exact point at which he crossed is in doubt. And equally uncertain, for the most part, are the course and extent of his wondering after he had crossed the great river. The weight of evidence seems to favor, as the most likely place of crossing, the site of the present city of Memphis. It is certain that the expedition penetrated far into the interior of Arkansas. Sometime during the fall of 1541 the explorers discovered "a lake of very hot and somewhat brackish water"; of which says the "Gentleman of Elvas," the horses drank so much "that it swelled their bellies." Thus it is practically certain that they were then at the now famous Hot Springs. The winter of 1541-1542, from November to March, they spent in




winter quarters at a point on the Ouachita River, near the southeast corner of Ouachita County, Arkansas. DeSoto died May 21, 1542, near the mouth of Red River in the present State of Louisiana.

JACQUES MARQUETTE *and* LOUIS JOLIET (1673).

After DeSoto, the next white men who visited any part of the country now within the State of Arkansas were the Frenchmen, Jacques Marquette, a Jesuit missionary, and Louis Joliet, a fur trader and explorer. Some time prior to 1665 Marquette was sent by the Jesuits as a missionary to the Indians about the Great Lakes. Having heard from the Indians stories of a great river to the westward, he laid the matter before the governor of Canada, who gave Marquette permission to fit out, "at his own expense," an expedition to go in search of the river. Marquette and Joliet, accompanied by five boatmen, set out from Michilimackinac May 13, 1673, in two large canoes. From Lake Michigan they entered Green Bay, ascended the Fox River for a space, crossed over to the Wisconsin River and floated down to the Mississippi, which they reached June 17, 1673. Continuing down stream, they arrived, early in July, at a native village where an old Indian told them that "the next great village" was "called Arkanseae." "We embarked," says Marquette in his journal, "early the next morning with our interpreters and ten Indians who went before us in a canoe. Having arrived about half a league from Arkanseae, we saw two canoes coming toward us." The explorers were kindly received and treated as friendly visitors. They rested in the village, perhaps two or three days, when, on July 17, (1673), they left to return to their homes. Passing up the Illinois River, they traveled thence by land over to Chicago River, which they descended to Lake Michigan. Marquette died May 18, 1675, at a mission situated near the site of the town of Ludington, Michigan.

ROBERT CAVELIER, SIEUR DE LA SALLE (1682).

LaSalle, on his voyage from Canada down the Mississippi, went ashore at the mouth of the Arkansas River March 12, 1682. King Louis XIV, of France, had granted him "letters





patent" on May 12, 1678, authorizing him to continue the explorations of Marquette and Joliet, to find "a port for the king's ships in the gulf of Mexico, discover the western parts of New France, and find a way to penetrate Mexico." Accompanied by Henri de Tonti, his lieutenant, Jacques de la Metarie, a notary, Jean Michel, a surgeon, Zenobe Membre, a missionary, and a number of Frenchmen "bearing arms," LaSalle set out from Michilimackinac early in the spring of 1682. Thence to the mouth of the Arkansas the party followed closely the route of Marquette and Joliet westward and down the Mississippi. They went ashore at the Chickasaw Bluffs and sent out a hunting party to procure game for food. Pierre Prudhomme, one of the hunters, having lost himself in the woods, was found only after a search of nine days. LaSalle then built a small fort there, called it Fort Prudhomme, and left the lost hunter in command. LaMetarie, the notary, says in his journal, "On the 12th of March we arrived at the Kapaha village of Arkansa." They visited several other Quapaw villages in the vicinity, made friends of the Indians, who, through their chief, acknowledged that the country belonged to the King of France. After resting several days, the explorers proceeded on their way down the Mississippi.

#### LOUISIANA, PROVINCE OF FRANCE (1682.)

LaSalle, having arrived at the mouth of the Mississippi, there, on high ground situated a short distance up the river, erected a cross bearing the arms of France and the following inscription: "Louis de Grand, Roi de France et de Navarre Reque; Neuvieme April, 1682." By dint of this act, France laid claim, from April 9, 1682, to "all the country drained by the great river and its tributaries." At the same time, LaSalle called the whole region Louisiana, in honor of Louis, the King. Thus the present State of Arkansas become part of Louisiana and a French possession.

#### HENRI DE TONTI, FOUNDER OF THE FIRST SETTLEMENT IN ARKANSAS (1686.)

LaSalle, in 1682, after his discovery of the mouth of the Mississippi, returned to Canada and sailed thence to France, whither he went to bring out to Louisiana a party of colonists.



To Tonti, whom he left, meanwhile, in the Illinois country, LaSalle had given a large tract of land situated near the mouth of the Arkansas River. In the spring of 1686 Tonti received orders to go to the mouth of the Mississippi to meet LaSalle, who had sailed, in July, 1684, from France with 290 persons in four ships. Whereupon Tonti, with 40 of his men, left Fort St. Louis and went down the Mississippi. After waiting near the mouth of the river for some time and hearing nothing of the fleet, he returned to the Indian villages on the Arkansas River. There he left ten of his men to establish a post. Of this first settlement attempted in the lower Mississippi Valley Tonti says in his account of it: "My companions, delighted with the beauty of the climate, asked my permission to settle there. As our intention was only to humanize and civilize the savages, by associating with them, I readily gave my consent. I formed the plan of a house for myself at the Arkansas. I left ten Frenchmen of my company there with four Indians, to proceed with the building, and I gave them leave to lodge there themselves, and to cultivate as much of the land as they could clear." This was the beginning of Arkansas Post.

#### THE CATHOLIC CHURCH GRANTED LANDS (1689).

Henri de Tonti, founder of the first settlement situated at Arkansas Post, deeded November 20, 1689, to the Catholic Church a large tract of the land granted him there by LaSalle. By this gift he hoped to aid in making of the settlement a permanent colony. And during the next three years he supported there, at his own expense, a missionary, whose business it was to look after the spiritual welfare of the natives and instruct them in the art of agriculture.

#### JOHN LAW'S COLONY (1718).

John Law, son of a banker of Edinburgh, Scotland, was granted, 1718, by the Duke of Orleans, then regent for Louis XV of France, a tract of land on the Arkansas River near the trading post which Tonti had established. This grant, described as twelve leagues square, contained 82,160 acres. Law's adventure, variously known as "The Western Company," "The Company of the West," "The Mississippi Bubble," etc.,



was conceived as a scheme of colonization. He agreed to settle 1,500 colonists upon the lands granted him, and to maintain a military force ample to protect the settlers from the Indians. A few months later, in 1718, one LaPage du Pratz brought over to Louisiana 800 colonists, part of whom settled on Law's lands. Du Pratz acted as overseer of Law's plantations. M. Levens came over as manager and trustee of the grant, which Law caused to be fashioned into a duchy. Other colonists, consisting of Alsatians and Germans, were sent over in 1719; and the same year, some 500 negro slaves were imported also. Upon the failure of Law's financial speculations in France, the colonists abandoned the settlement; some returned to Europe; others settled along the Mississippi not far from New Orleans. When LaHarpe, the French explorer, passed up the Arkansas in 1722, there were then only forty-seven settlers on the grant. At the time of his second visit in April, 1723, the settlement was entirely deserted.

#### ARKANSAS POST MADE PERMANENT SETTLEMENT (1722).

The Duke of Orleans, regent for the infant King of France, Louis XV, commissioned in 1722, Bernard de la Harpe to explore the Arkansas River and "establish a permanent post at the Arkansas." Such a place was intended to serve "as a connecting point" between settlements in the Illinois country and others in lower Louisiana. It was proposed, also, as a result of the establishment of such a trading post, "to facilitate the introduction of horses, mules and cattle from the Spanish provinces." In September, 1722, La Harpe, having repaired and improved the stockade, stationed at the Post of the Arkansas a regular garrison, under the command of Lieutenant de Boulage. La Harpe says, in his report of the expedition, that "prior to this time the place had been only a trading and military post among the Indians." Indeed, there is hardly any doubt but that, since the first settlement there by Tonti in 1686, the post had been from time to time utterly abandoned, sometimes several years together. La Harpe's visit marked the beginning of its civil history. And thereafter, throughout the periods of French and Spanish possession of Louisiana, the post continued a center of trade and government.



**FRANCE CEDED LOUISIANA TO SPAIN (1762). .**

By the treaty of Fontainebleau, in effect from November 3, 1762, France ceded Louisiana, including the present State of Arkansas, to Spain. The treaty of Fontainebleau put an end to the French and Indian war, as the Seven Years was known in America; which war had begun in 1753. France, as a result of the war and the treaty of peace, lost all her possessions on the continent of North America. England acquired Canada, including that part of Louisiana south of the Great Lakes and east of the Mississippi River. At the same time and place—Fontainebleau, 1762—France ceded to Spain, by secret negotiations, all that part of Louisiana west of the Mississippi. The first governor, under Spanish rule, was Don Antonio de Ulloa. Ulloa arrived in New Orleans, the residence of the governor of the province, March 5, 1766; at which time Spain actually took possession.

**ARKANSAS POST (1765).**

Captain Philip Pittman, of the British Army, visited Arkansas Post in 1765. In his observations, entitled "Present State of the European Settlements on the Mississippi," as published in 1770, he says of the post: "The fort is situated three leagues up the river Arkansas, and is built with stockades in a quadrangular form; the sides of the exterior polygon are about one hundred and eighty feet and one three-pounder is mounted in the flanks and faces of each bastion. The buildings within the fort are, a barrack with three rooms for the soldiers, commanding officer's house, a powder magazine, a magazine for provision, and an apartment for the commissary, all of which are in a ruinous condition. The fort stands about two hundred yards from the water-side and is garrisoned by a captain, a lieutenant and thirty French soldiers, including sergeants and corporals. There are eight houses without the fort, occupied by as many families, who have cleared the land about nine hundred yards in depth; but on account of the sandiness of the soil and lowness of the situation, which makes it subject to be overflowed, they do not raise their necessary provisions. These people subsist mostly by hunting, and every



season send to New Orleans great quantities of bear's oil, tallow, salted buffalo meat and a few skins."

**FOUNDER OF CITY OF ST. LOUIS DIED AT ARKANSAS  
POST (1778)**

During the Spanish occupation, actually from 1766 to 1800, the Arkansas Post grew in importance as a center of trade. The government of the Arkansas country, known as the "Parish of Arkansas, in the Province of Louisiana," was under the immediate control of a commandant, who resided at the Post. Besides the commandant and his soldiers, who resided in the fort, a quite considerable town had grown up, outside the walls of the military post, of settlers engaged in trade and agriculture. Pierre Laclede, the founder of St. Louis, and an enterprising merchant, maintained a branch storehouse at the Post until his death there in 1778.

**DON JOSEPH VALLIERE, COMMANDANT AT ARKANSAS  
POST (1785-1790).**

Of the many commandants who, during the French and afterwards the Spanish occupation of Louisiana, resided at Arkansas Post, Don Joseph Valliere is perhaps best known. He was ordered there with the Sixth Spanish Regiment, of which he was commander, in 1785. He continued in control of the affairs of the District of Arkansas until 1790. In the meantime, he had married a daughter of Lewismore Vaugine, who resided at the Post. On June 11, 1793, he was granted, by authority of the Spanish government, a large tract of land situated on the White River. He died in 1799, perhaps at the Arkansas Post. The grant of land to Valliere was but one of many such made by Spanish authorities to individuals. And like many other such princely grant, the claim of his heirs to the land, after many years and much troublesome litigation, was disallowed by the courts of the United States.

**BIRTH OF FIRST CHILD IN ARKANSAS BORN OF ENGLISH-  
AMERICAN PARENTAGE (1800).**

"In the early part of the year 1800 William Patterson, Sylvanus Philips and Abraham Philips," says Jewell in his



History of Methodism in Arkansas, "moved from Kentucky to Arkansas and settled three miles south of the St. Francis River at a point known as the Little Prairie, on the bank of the Mississippi River. John Patterson was born at this place during this year. He was the first white child born in this part of the State, and probably the first child born of American parents in the State. In the summer of 1800, William Patterson cut the large cane where the city of Helena now stands, and built a rude warehouse for storing goods and provisions for the accommodation of barge shipping, as there were no steamboats at that day." The Sylvanus Philips, to whom this writer refers, was member of the first General Assembly of Arkansas, which met at Arkansas Post in February and October of 1820. The County of Philips, organized that year, was named for him.

#### SPAIN TRADED LOUISIANA TO FRANCE (1800).

By the Treaty of San Ildefonso, secretly negotiated, Charles IV, of Spain, agreed October 1, 1800, to restore Louisiana to France, in exchange for "an Italian kingdom of at least one million inhabitants." The Treaty of San Ildefonso was confirmed by a second treaty, concluded at Madrid, March 21, 1801, though the deal was not finally settled until October, 1802, when Charles IV signed the Treaty of Madrid. Thus Louisiana was restored to France, and Spain acquired in exchange for her title the Italian State of Tuscany. These negotiations, and the resulting restoration of Louisiana to France, were instigated by Napoleon Bonaparte, then First Consul of the Republic of France, as a measure of effecting the realization of his plans to rebuild and expand the colonial empire of France.

#### LOUISIANA PURCHASED BY THE UNITED STATES (1803).

The province of Louisiana was purchased by the United States from France April 30, 1803. The purchase was brought about by the insistence on the part of the United States upon the right of its citizens to the navigation of the Mississippi River. As long ago as 1795 Spain, by treaty, had "agreed that the navigation of the said river, in its whole breadth, from



its source to the ocean," should be free to citizens of the United States. Thus, when it became known that Napoleon, by intrigue, had effected the return of Louisiana to France, public opinion took alarm in the United States, especially throughout the western country, at what President Jefferson called a "policy," on the part of France and Spain, "very ominous to us." And when, on October 16, 1803, the Governor of Louisiana suspended "the privilege which the Americans had enjoyed of importing and depositing their merchandise and effects" at New Orleans, Mr. Jefferson wrote the American minister at Paris to sound the French Government on the matter of ceding to the United States the Island of Orleans, including the city of New Orleans. A few days later Mr. Jefferson sent James Monroe to France, with \$2,000,000 at his disposal, for the purchase of the island, to cooperate with Robert Livingston, the minister, in conducting the negotiations. In the meantime, beset by multiplying difficulties in Europe, Napoleon abandoned his dream of rebuilding the colonial empire of France, in so far as regarded the holding of Louisiana at all events. Thus, Talleyrand, Napoleon's Prime Minister, offered to sell the United States the whole of Louisiana, explaining that without the island and city of New Orleans the province would prove worthless to France. And after some misgiving and hesitation on the part of the Americans, the terms of the purchase were drawn up in a formal treaty, known as the Treaty of Paris, in which the United States agreed to pay 80,000,000 francs. Eventually, the total cost amounted to \$27,267,621.

**WILLIAM C. C. CLAIBORNE, FIRST AMERICAN GOVERNOR  
OF LOUISIANA (1803).**

President Jefferson appointed William C. C. Claiborne Governor of Louisiana on October 31, 1803, the same day that Claiborne was named by the President as one of the commissioners to take over the province on behalf of the United States. On December 20, following, in taking formal possession of the country, the new executive issued an address to the people of Louisiana. In it he assured them of the inheritance of freedom under the United States and the security of their property and religious liberty.



**THE STARS AND STRIPES RAISED AT NEW ORLEANS (1803).**

The formality of giving possession of Louisiana to the United States was done at New Orleans on December 20, 1803. President Jefferson had appointed General James Wilkinson and William C. C. Claiborne, the latter then governor of Mississippi Territory, commissioners to take over Louisiana from Pierre Clemant Laussat, the French commissary. On November 30, 1803, the Marquis de Casa Calvo, as the representative of the Spanish Government, transferred the province to Laussat, who on December 20, 1803, transferred it to Wilkinson and Claiborne. Then the Stars and Stripes were raised in New Orleans, for the first time, in token of the sovereignty of the United States over the territory west of the Mississippi River. Thus the domain of the United States was extended westward to the summit of the Rocky Mountains, and Arkansas became a part of the American Republic.

**CONTROL OF UPPER LOUISIANA, INCLUDING THE PRESENT STATE OF ARKANSAS, TRANSFERRED TO THE UNITED STATES AT ST. LOUIS (1804).**

Although the transfer of Louisiana to United States was made on December 20, 1803, the actual exercise of authority over the upper or northern part of the province, which included Arkansas, did not begin until March 10, 1804. On that day Major Amos Stoddard, of the United States Army, assumed the duties of governor of upper Louisiana at St. Louis. In his account of the occasion, Major Stoddard says: "The ceremony of transfer from Spain to France occurred between the hours of eleven a. m. and twelve m., March 9, 1804. The Spanish flag was lowered and the standard of France was run up in its place. The people, although conscious that the sovereignty of France was being resumed but for a moment and simply as a necessary formality in the final transfer, nevertheless could not restrain their joy at seeing float over them once more the standard which even forty years of the mild sway of Spain had not estranged from their memory. So deep was the feeling that, when the customary hour came for lowering the flag, the people besought me to let it remain up all night. The request was granted and the flag of France



floated until the next morning over the city from which it was about to be withdrawn forever. At the appointed time on the next day, March 10, 1804, the ceremony of transfer from France to the United States was enacted. The flag of the French Republic was withdrawn and the Stars and Stripes waved for the first time in the future metropolis of the Valley of the Mississippi. Thus St. Louis became perhaps the only city in history which has seen the flag of three nations float over it in token of sovereignty within the space of twenty-four hours."

**LOUISIANA DIVIDED; ARKANSAS ATTACHED TO THE TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENT OF INDIANA (1804).**

On March 26, 1804, President Jefferson approved an act of Congress dividing Louisiana into two parts, viz: The Territory of Orleans and the District of Louisiana. The former embraced what is now the State of Louisiana and the latter included all the remainder of the purchase. Under the provisions of this act the District of Louisiana was made subject to the territorial government of Indiana, of which Gen. William Henry Harrison was then governor. Some historians state that by this act all of Upper Louisiana, which included the present State of Arkansas, was made a part of the Territory of Indiana. This is a mistake. The act merely regarded the District of Louisiana, or Upper Louisiana, as it was commonly called, as unorganized territory and attached it to Indiana for judicial purposes, etc. On October 1, 1804, Gov. William Henry Harrison, of Indiana, and the judges of the territory visited St. Louis for the purpose of holding a session of the court and making laws for the District of Louisiana. They enacted fifteen laws, "identical with or adapted from those already in force in the old Northwest or Indiana Territory." The District of Louisiana was also divided into five subdistricts of St. Louis, St. Charles, Cape Girardeau, Ste. Genevieve and New Madrid. Colonel Samuel Hammond was appointed Lieutenant-governor or commandant of St. Louis; Colonel Return J. Meigs, of St. Charles; Colonel Thomas B. Scott, of Cape Girardeau; Major Seth Hunt, of Ste. Genevieve; and Pierre Antoine Laforge, civil commandant of New Madrid.



**DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA, INCLUDING ARKANSAS, CREATED THE TERRITORY OF LOUISIANA (1805).**

An Act of Congress approved March 3, 1805, made over the District of Louisiana into the Territory of Louisiana. The same act named St. Louis as the seat of the new territorial government. The President appointed James Wilkinson, a native of Maryland, governor; Joseph Brown, of New York, secretary; John B. C. Lucas, of Pennsylvania, John Coburn, of Kentucky, and Rufus Eaton, of St. Louis, judges. In 1805 Aaron Burr visited St. Louis. The circumstances of Burr's visit confirmed public opinion in the suspicion of Wilkinson as aiding the alleged conspiracy of Burr to establish an independent empire in the southwest. For this, and his arbitrary acts as governor, President Jefferson removed him from office March 3, 1807, and appointed in his stead Captain Meriwether Lewis, a native of Virginia.

**DISTRICT OF ARKANSAS FORMED (1806).**

The Legislature of the Territory of Louisiana, by an act approved June 27, 1806, created the District of Arkansas out of territory taken "from the southern part of New Madrid District." The boundaries of the new district, as afterwards fixed by proclamation of Governor Meriwether Lewis, were defined as all of New Madrid District south of "a line beginning on the Mississippi River opposite the second Chickasaw Bluff and continuing west indefinitely." The southern boundary was given as the thirty-third parallel of north latitude. Stephen Worrell was appointed commandant, or deputy governor, of the new District of Arkansas.

**CIVIL GOVERNMENT ORGANIZED IN THE DISTRICT OF ARKANSAS (1808).**

Though created more than two years before by the Legislature of Louisiana Territory, no steps were taken to organize civil government in the District of Arkansas until August 23, 1808. On that day Governor Meriwether Lewis appointed the following officers for the district: Harold Stillwell, Sheriff; John W. Honey, judge of the probate court,



clerk of the court of common pleas, and recorder of the district; Joseph Stillwell, Francis Vaugine and Benjamin Foy, judges of the court of common pleas; Perley Wallis, deputy attorney-general for the district; Andrew Fagot, justice of the peace, notary public and coroner. Benjamin Foy was also empowered to act as justice of the peace.

#### OSAGE INDIAN TREATY (1808).

On November 10, 1808, a treaty was concluded between the United States and the Osage Indians, by which the latter relinquished all claim to most of their lands now included in the State of Arkansas. The Osage tribe claimed all that part of the State north of the Arkansas River. And by the treaty of 1808 they ceded all of the said territory except a narrow strip north of the Arkansas and east of the present western boundary.

#### HEMPHILL'S SALT WORKS—THE FIRST MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY (1811).

The earliest factory, of which any definite information has been obtained, was John Hemphill's salt works, established at Blakeleytown, Clark County, in 1811. Blakeleytown was a small settlement on the Ouachita River a short distance below Arkadelphia. Salt was made here by the Indians for many years before the first white settlements were founded in Arkansas and some writers think it was at this point that DeSoto made salt in the winter of 1541-42. Hemphill continued the business until his death in 1825 and his heirs carried it on until about 1850.

#### THE NEW MADRID EARTHQUAKE (1811).

The first shocks of the New Madrid earthquake were felt December 16, 1811. The area most violently shaken by the disturbance was, it seems, some thirty miles square, of which the town of New Madrid was situated near the center. Less violent effects of the disturbance were manifest hundreds of miles around, especially along the Mississippi. The "sunk lands of the St. Francis" river basin, situated in Craighead, Mississippi, Poinsett and other counties of northeast Arkansas, still



remain as visible evidence of the quake. The following account was written from contemporary sources: "Eye witnesses have told us that these concussions were divisible into two classes, in one of which the motion was perpendicular, whilst in the other it was horizontal. Of these, the latter were the most destructive; when they were felt the houses crumbled, the trees waved together and the ground sunk. The undulations at such times were described as resembling waves, which increased in elevation as they advanced, and when they had attained a certain fearful height, the earth would burst and vast volumes of water and sand and pit-coal were discharged, as high as the tops of the trees, leaving large crevices or chasms where the ground had burst. Lakes of twenty miles in extent and more were made in an hour, whilst others were drained, and whole districts were covered with white sand, so that they become uninhabitable." On February 17, 1815, Congress passed an act for the relief of the earthquake sufferers, by which they were given certificates that entitled them to locate new homes on the public lands. Such claims or patents issued to claimants under the said act of Congress, became known as "New Madrid Certificates."

#### THE BEGINNING OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN ARKANSAS (1811).

There seems to be no doubt that the first protestant sermon preached in what is now the State of Arkansas was delivered at Arkansas Post in 1811 by the Rev. John P. Carnahan, minister of the Cumberland Presbyterian faith. Mr. Carnahan subsequently became a resident of the Pyeatt settlement at Crystal Hill, some twelve or fifteen miles up the Arkansas from Little Rock; there his daughter was married to Henry Pyeatt on February 10, 1820. This pioneer preacher conducted the first camp meeting in Arkansas. It was opened on Friday, May 24, 1822, and continued for five days, "with good results for the cause of Christianity." The meeting was held on the farm of Major John Pyeatt. Another camp meeting was held at the same place, beginning on May 15, 1825, in which Mr. Carnahan was assisted by the Rev. Robert Sloane. The first regular Presbyterian church to be organized



in Arkansas is still in existence and is known as the First Presbyterian Church of Little Rock. It was organized on Sunday, July 27, 1828, by Rev. James W. Moore, who has been called the "Father of Presbyterianism in Arkansas." Mr. Moore was born at Milton, Pennsylvania, September 14, 1797, attended the common schools in his native town, united with the church in 1820, and in 1824 entered the Theological Seminary at Princeton, New Jersey. Upon completing his studies he was licensed to preach and on November 21, 1827, was ordained as a missionary for Arkansas. On January 25, 1828, he arrived at Little Rock and preached his first sermon the following Sunday. The church organized in July consisted of only seven members. This little congregation worshiped in various houses until the next summer, when a small chapel was erected on the corner of Main and Second Streets, which was used until 1847. Mr. Moore died on January 25, 1873, after exactly forty-five years in the Presbyterian ministry in Arkansas.

#### THE NAME OF LOUISIANA TERRITORY CHANGED TO THE TERRITORY OF MISSOURI (1812).

The Territory of Orleans was admitted to the Union April 8, 1812, as the State of Louisiana. The adoption of the name Louisiana by the new State necessitated a change of the name of the then Territory of Louisiana. Accordingly Congress passed an act, approved June 4, 1812, to the effect that thenceforth the Territory of Louisiana should be known as the Territory of Missouri. Though the rest of Missouri was divided the same year (1812) into five counties, the District of Arkansas still continued as such for a time. In the Territorial Legislature, which met in December, 1812, the first Territorial Legislature of Missouri having a house of representatives who were chosen by the people, the District of Arkansas was not represented.

#### BOUNTY LANDS RESERVED FOR SOLDIERS (1812).

By an Act of Congress, approved May 6, 1812, six million acres of the public lands were reserved for veterans of the War of 1812. Of these so-called bounty lands, there were



two million acres set apart in a body in what is now Arkansas. The lands surveyed and reserved for this purpose embraced the triangular tract situated between the Arkansas and White Rivers, beginning at the Mississippi.

#### ARKANSAS COUNTY CREATED (1813).

At an adjourned, or second session of the first General Assembly of Missouri "all that part of Missouri Territory south of New Madrid County" was created the county of Arkansas. The act creating the new county was approved by Governor William Clark December 31, 1813. The boundaries of the county, as then defined, included nearly the whole of the present State of Arkansas; which had, according to a census taken in 1814, a total male population of but 827. The second General Assembly of Missouri met on December 5, 1814. To this assembly was elected Henry Cassidy from Arkansas County, who sat as its first representative in the Legislature.

#### THE ENTRANCE OF METHODISM (1815).

The Tennessee Conference of the Methodist Church, which met at Bethlehem, Tennessee, October 20, 1815, organized Spring River Circuit as part of the Missouri District. The Conference failed to appoint a regular "rider" of the new circuit, but before the close of the year a "supply" was found in the person of Eli Lindsey, a pioneer preacher, who lived then on Strawberry River, near the mouth of Big Creek. Though there had been no doubt, sermons preached upon occasions before 1815 in what is now the State of Arkansas, it is certain that the organization of the Spring River Circuit was the first work "laid off" there by a conference of the church in regular manner. It is said of Lindsey that he attended all the house-raising, log-rollings and frolics, and after the labors and festivities were over would ask permission to say a "few words." Then he would preach a short sermon and invite those present to attend regular services at his next appointment. His circuit extended from the Little Red River northward to the Missouri line. There were no church buildings and he preached wherever he could find a suitable place.



At the close of the year 1815 he reported a membership of ninety-five in his circuit. That part of the Tennessee Conference lying west of the Mississippi River was organized as the Missouri Conference in 1816. The conference formed also that year the Hot Springs Circuit. The appointments for Arkansas were: Spring River Circuit, Rev. Philip Davis; Hot Springs Circuit, Rev. William Stephenson. These two circuits included all of the present State of Arkansas. At the close of the year the two circuit riders reported 190 members. The first conference for the District of Arkansas was held at the Ebenezer Camp Ground in Hempstead County, September 6, 1822. The licensed preachers in the district were: James Blackburn, Gilbert Clark, William Harned, Benjamin Ogden, Daniel Rawles, Joseph Reid, Salmon Ruggles, Thomas Tennant and John Tollett. John Scripps was presiding elder of the district, Gilbert Clark was chosen secretary of the conference, William Stephenson, Francis Travis and John Henry were chosen elders, and Green Orr was licensed to preach. The General Conference in 1836 ordered the establishment of the Arkansas Conference, the first session of which was held at Batesville, Bishop Morris presiding. The Members of the conference at its organization were: Thomas Bertholf, Fountain Brown, Henry Cornelius, John A. Cotton, Erastus B. Duncan, Jesse A. Guice, Robert Gregory, John N. Hamil, John Harrel, John L. Irwin, Charles J. Karney, Burwell Lee, Moses Perry, Charles T. Ramsey, Richmond Randle, William Ratcliffe, John H. Rives, Winfree B. Scott, A. D. Smythe, Sidney Squires, William Stephenson, W. H. Turnley, Lemuel Wakelee and Jacob Whitesides.

#### SURVEYS OF THE PUBLIC LANDS BEGUN (1815)

Surveys of the public lands in what is now the State of Arkansas were begun in 1815. The first surveys were made of the lands reserved for the veterans of the War of 1812, the so-called Military Bounty Lands; of which there were two million acres set apart in the now State of Arkansas, by act of Congress, approved May 6, 1812.

First, the selection of a starting point had to be made, before the work of surveying the lands could be actually begun.



This point was determined by the intersection of two temporary lines. One of these lines was run west from the mouth of the St. Francis River; the other north from the mouth of the Arkansas River.

The line run from the mouth of the St. Francis river was commenced October 27, 1815 by Joseph C. Brown, deputy surveyor of the United States under the Surveyor General of the State of Illinois and the territory of Missouri (Arkansas was then a part of Missouri Territory). William Rector was then Surveyor General of the land district which embraced the aforesaid State and Territory. His office was in St. Louis. The line begun at the mouth of the Arkansas River was commenced on the same day, October 27, 1815, by R. R. Robins, another deputy surveyor under Rector. Brown ran his line twenty-six miles and a fraction due west and Robbins ran his fifty-seven miles and a fraction north. Robbins established the starting point on November 10, 1815, when he crossed the line run by Brown. The intersection of these two lines is known as the initial point of all the surveys which have since been made. Thus also the lines described above as temporary became in fact the principal meridian and the base line for all later and permanent surveys.

Brown described his line as commencing at a post on the south bank of the St. Francis River at its mouth, where the Mississippi was fifty chains wide and ran twelve degrees east of south. He continued his line west from the point of intersection with Robbins' line and established as he went permanent township, section and quarter-section corners at their proper positions for a distance of fifty-eight miles and a fraction, until he reached the bank of the Arkansas River. His notes say that "the width of the Arkansas is twenty chains and it appears to run about as swiftly as the Ohio." He says also that he reached the Arkansas on December 5, 1815, and that Nathan Myers and Richard Sessams were chain carriers and Nathan Gilpin marker.

Robbins continued his line from the point of intersection with Brown's line north for a distance of two hundred and fifty-nine miles, until he reached the banks of the Missouri



River, on December 28, 1815. He also established permanent corners for the townships north of the base line. His notes do not show the name of his assistants.

#### DAVIDSONVILLE, THE FIRST POSTOFFICE (1817).

The first postoffice in what is now the State of Arkansas was established at Davidsonville, in June, 1817. One Adam Richie was the first postmaster. In point of priority, the postoffice at Arkansas Post was a close second. The office at the latter place was established July 1, 1817, with Eli J. Lewis as postmaster. The office at Little Rock, of which Amos Wheeler was the first postmaster, was established in March, 1820.

#### THE CHEROKEE INDIANS CEDED LANDS IN ARKANSAS (1817).

By a treaty concluded July 8, 1817, with the Cherokees of Georgia, the United States Government granted that tribe of Indians a large tract of land in what is now the State of Arkansas. The lands so ceded were given to the Indians in exchange for a part of the lands claimed by them east of the Mississippi River. The grant included the greater part of the State situated between the Arkansas and White Rivers and west of a straight line drawn from a point on the Arkansas River near the present town of Morrilton in a northeasterly direction to the White River.

#### THE FIRST QUAPAW TREATY (1818).

In a treaty concluded at St. Louis, August 24, 1818, the Quapaw Indians, for whom Arkansas is named, ceded to the United States all lands claimed by them in the present State of Arkansas, except a triangular tract south of the Arkansas River. The tract reserved was bounded on the north by the Arkansas, on the east and south by a straight line drawn due southwest from a point on the Arkansas opposite Arkansas Post to the Saline River; on the west by a straight line from the latter point on the Saline River north to the Arkansas at Little Rock. By a second treaty, of November 15, 1824, the Quapaws ceded the lands reserved to them, as just described in the treaty of 1818.



## HOW ARKANSAS GOT ITS NAME (1819).

The name "Arkansas" manifestly is a word of Indian origin. Nor is there, seemingly, any doubt as to its meaning; nor any uncertainty about how the name should be pronounced; nor yet, any doubt why Congress, which created the Territory of Arkansas by an act approved March 2, 1819, called the new territory "Arkansaw." Most American ethnologists now, it seems, are agreed that the Arkansa, or, as they are better known, the Quapaw Indians, are of Siouan stock; which is to say, they are but one of a number of tribes embraced in the Siouan family of North American Indians. Other kindred tribes of the Siouan family are the Kansa Omaha, Osage and Ponca. These latter tribes, with their near kinsmen, the Quapaw (Arkansa), were once, perhaps as late as the early part of the sixteenth century, united in an alliance, as five confederated tribes, who inhabited jointly the region of the lower Ohio valley. Later, probably before the end of the sixteenth century, the several tribes of the confederacy migrated from the region north of the Ohio and east of the Mississippi Rivers. Four of the allied tribes—the Kansa, Omaha, Osage and Ponca—moved northward and across the Mississippi; while the other tribe—the Quapaw, as they were then only known,—migrated down the Mississippi. Thereafter, the Illinois Indians, who, not unlikely, had helped to drive the allied tribes out of what is now southern Illinois, gave the two groups new names. The four tribes who had moved northward were called by the Illinois the O-ma-ha; which meant the "upstream people." While to the Quapaw, they gave the name U-gakh-pa; which word meant, in the language of the Illinois, the "down-stream people." Thus the early French explorers heard the Indians whom they found dwelling in what is now Arkansas call themselves Quapaw; by other Indians, no doubt, the French heard the Quapaw called U-gakh-pa. The French explorers wrote, of course, the word Ugakhpa euphonically; that is, as each writer heard the Indians pronounce it. For example, Marquette wrote it (1673), Arkanssea; LaSalle (1680), Aconsa; Jontel (1687), Accanceas; Penicaut (1700), Arkansas; Adair (1775), Aquahpa; Pike (1811), Arkansaw. It is significant, too that the earliest writers but rarely wrote the word Arkansas with a final "s". Almost



never was the "s" added except to express the plural. And students of ethnology are commonly agreed that the now familiar spelling, with a final "s", is really erroneous. The same is true also of Kansas. Both Arkansas and Kansas, properly speaking, should be written without the final "s", as in the spelling of Omaha, Ottawa, Wichita, etc. Owing to an error of custom in adding a final "s" to Kansas, originally to express the plural, the name is now universally pronounced improperly. And so also, there are those who pronounce the name Arkansas correspondingly incorrect—with the final "s" sounded and the accent put upon the second syllable. Such persons may easily avoid this error by remembering that the correct spelling of the tribal name of the Indian tribe from which the State of Arkansas gets its name was Arkansa. When thus spelled, without the final "s", the accent falls naturally enough on the first and last syllables. That the last syllable should be pronounced as if it were spelled "saw" is evidenced by the fact that the name of the Territory of Arkansas, which appears ten times in the act of Congress that created it, is invariably spelled "Arkansaw." Not until many years after Arkansas became an organized Territory did it, it seems, occur to anyone to pronounce the name other than that clearly indicated by the spelling "Arkansaw", as used by Congress in creating the Territory. The word Arkansas was first employed as a place named by the Indians. For, in 1673, Marquette, as he passed down the Mississippi River on his exploiting expedition, was told that the Indian village situated then near the mouth of the river which is now the Arkansas was, as Marquette wrote in his journal, "called Arkanseas." When in 1686, Tonti, the explorer, founded the first white settlement near the Indian village of "Arkansea," he called the place Arkansas. This settlement, which, in time, came to be known as Arkansas Post, was, during the next hundred years and more, the only settlement in what is now Arkansas that had a place name. Meantime, much of the region now embraced in Arkansas was called by the French, and later by the Spanish, authorities the "Parish of Arkansas." In 1806, the territorial legislature of Louisiana formed the greater part of what is now the State of Arkansas into the "District of Arkansas." In December, 1813, the territorial



legislature of Missouri created the "County of Arkansas"; which county embraced the greater part of the present State of Arkansas. In the spring, or early summer, of 1818, a petition was framed at Arkansas Post, which many of the inhabitants at and in the vicinity of the Post signed, "respectfully petitioning the Congress of the United States" that the Congress create a new "Territory of Arkansaw." This petition was sent to Washington, where it was presented to Congress and a bill introduced to effect the will of the petitioners. What could have been more natural than that the petitioners should have chosen the name Arkansas, or that Congress should have adopted it? In reality, tradition and custom gave the locality its name of Arkansas; Congress simply ratified what custom long since had made effective.

#### THE TERRITORY OF ARKANSAS FORMED (1819).

Congress created the Territory of Arkansas by an act approved by President James Monroe March 2, 1819. The boundaries, as defined in the act of Congress, were practically the same as those of the present State of Arkansas except on the west, where the boundary was given as the "western territorial line." The latter meant the western boundary of Louisiana, as purchased of France. Thus the Territory originally included the present State of Oklahoma and part of Colorado. By Subsequent treaties with the Choctaw Indians (1825) and the Cherokees (1828) the boundary on the west was fixed as at present. The new Territory was called Arkansas in the act of Congress—where it was spelled Arkansaw—in response to a petition which emanated from a meeting of a number of the inhabitants at Arkansas Post in the spring of 1818. In their petition, which prayed Congress to establish a new Territory, they asked that it be called "Arkansaw."

#### THE FIRST NEWSPAPER IN ARKANSAS ESTABLISHED (1819).

On a Saturday, November 20, 1819, William E. Woodruff issued, at Arkansas Post, the first number of The Arkansas Gazette. This was the beginning of journalism in Arkansas. There had been, prior to that time, six newspapers published west of the Mississippi River. Of the six which began publi-



cation before Woodruff founded the Gazette, all but one disappeared after a few years. The St. Louis Republic, founded in 1808, and continued until a few years ago, is now no longer in existence as such. Thus the Arkansas Gazette, founded in 1819, is the oldest paper now published west of the Mississippi River.

In November, 1869, the Gazette published a brief historical summary for the purpose, as the writer said, of showing the Gazette's connection "with the affairs and politics of the Territory and State during its long and eventful career." Mr Woodruff, the founder, supplied no doubt the main facts for the summary in question. He was then living and active and retained a deep personal interest in the welfare of the Gazette. The article is too long to reprint as a whole in this little book. But a few excerpts from it will set at rest some doubt as to the early history of the Gazette.

"Immediately upon the passage of the Arkansas Territorial bill, Mr. William E. Woodruff, then a temporary resident of Nashville, Tennessee, purchased a small printing office at that place, and, to forestall any enterprising competitor, made all the haste possible, in those pre-steamboat days, to reach the Territorial Capital, with his outfit. It was but slow work, however. The route was down the Cumberland to Smithland, the Ohio to the site of Cairo, and the Mississippi to Montgomery's Point—the latter then and for many years the depot for freights and travel for interior Arkansas; the means of transportation a keel-boat. Only a dozen steamers at that early day navigated the Mississippi.

"From Montgomery's Point, no land route better than a bridle-path existing, a perogue—or large canoe—made of an entire cotton-wood tree and manned by two boatmen, was loaded with the materials of the enterprising young publisher and his effects were transported from that point, via mouth of the Arkansas river, and safely landed at the Post, on the last day of October, 1819. He found that the Post consisted of a small village, and a house was difficult to obtain—but, with the determination which knew no such a word as fail, one was soon extemporized, and on the 20th day of November the



first number of 'The Arkansas Gazette', as its title ran, saw the light. In his own person the publisher 'boxed the compass' of newspaper requirements in its preparation—for he filled every station in the office. He was publisher, editor, foreman, compositor, pressman, ball boy and mail clerk. He had no assistance whatever. The services of a carrier were not required, for he commenced without a subscriber.....

In his summary for the year 1821, the writer says that the last issue of the Gazette at the Arkansas Post was published on November 24th of that year. The first issue published at Little Rock appeared on December 29th, 1821. The writer says that it was only a "half sheet". And he adds that during the week, which was Christmas week of 1821, "the Arkansas River was frozen entirely across."

#### THE FIRST ARKANSAS LEGISLATURE (1819).

The first legislature assembled to enact laws for the new Territory of Arkansas met at Arkansas Post on a Wednesday, July 28, 1819. The members continued in session until August 3. This first legislature, unlike any of its successors, was composed of the governor, who, having not yet arrived in the Territory, was represented by the territorial secretary acting as governor, and the three judges of the Superior Court—then the supreme, or highest, court of the Territory. The most important measure enacted was an act declaring in force in Arkansas "all the laws and parts of laws now in existence in the Territory of Missouri, which are of general and not of local nature, and which are not repugnant to the organic law of this territory." Thus quick work was made of the matter of providing Arkansas with a ready-made system of general laws. The members were, Robert Crittenden, acting governor; Charles Jouett, Andrew Scott and Robert P. Letcher, judges.

#### THE FIRST GENERAL ELECTION IN ARKANSAS (1819).

The first general election in Arkansas was held on Saturday, November 20, 1819, the same day on which appeared the first issue of The Arkansas Gazette. On that day the voters of the Territory chose a delegate to Congress, five members of a legislative council and nine members of a house of representatives. There were six candidates for delegate to Congress:



Stephen F. Austin, James Woodson Bates, Henry Cassidy, Robert F. Slaughter, Aldxander S. Walker and Perley Wallis. A total of 1272 votes was cast, distributed among the six candidates as follows: Austin, 343; Bates, 401; Cassidy, 156; Slaughter, 138; Walker, 226; Wallis, 8. Stephen F. Austin, son of Moses Austin, announced his candidacy only thirteen days before the election. It was said afterwards that many voters in distant parts of the Territory knew nothing of his announcement until after the election. Had he entered the race at an earlier date, perhaps the result of the election had been different. James Woodson Bates having received a plurality was declared elected. Austin went shortly to Texas, where he founded a colony of Americans. The city of Austin was named for him.

#### THE FIRST MASONIC LODGE ORGANIZED (1819).

When Andrew Scott was appointed judge of the Superior Court of Arkansas Territory in 1819 he was master of a Masonic lodge working under dispensation at Potosi, Missouri. With his appointment and prospective removal to Arkansas, the lodge surrendered its letter of dispensation, but Judge Scott asked and obtained permission from the Missouri Grand Lodge to retain the jewels, to be presented to the first Masonic lodge organized in Arkansas. Shortly after he settled at Arkansas Post a few Masons residing there petitioned the Grand Lodge of Kentucky for letters of dispensation to organize a lodge. The petition was granted on November 30, 1819, and on the next day Robert Johnson was installed as worshipful master. This lodge was the first in Arkansas, of which anything definite can be learned. Upon the removal of the seat of government to Little Rock several of the members followed the capital and the lodge surrendered its dispensation. Arkansas was then without a Masonic organization of any kind until 1836, when the Masons of Fayetteville obtained a dispensation from the Grand Lodge of Tennessee to organize a lodge. It was named Washington Lodge No. 82, and was presented with the jewels brought from Missouri by Judge Scott seventeen years before.



**THE FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY (1820).**

The first General Assembly—the first legislature made up of members chosen by the people—met at Arkansas Post February 7, 1820. Governor James Miller did not arrive at Arkansas Post, the temporary seat of government, until Sunday, December 26, 1819. Three days later, December 29, he issued his proclamation calling an extraordinary session of the General Assembly, as elected in November, for the first Monday in February following, which was February 7, 1820. The members of the council were: Sylvanus Philips, Arkansas county; Jacob Barkman, Clark county; David Clark, Hempstead county; Edward McDonald, president, Lawrence county; John McElmurry, Pulaski county. The members of the house were: William O. Allen and Wm. B. R. Horner, Arkansas County; Thomas Fish, Clark county; John English and Wm. Stevenson, Hempstead county; Joab Hardin and Joseph Hardin, Speaker, Lawrence county; Radford Ellis and Thomas H. Tindall, Pulaski county.

**THE SITE OF LITTLE ROCK LAID OUT FOR A TOWN (1820).**

The first white settler on what is now the site of the city of Little Rock was Williams Lewis, a hunter and trapper. Lewis, according to the sworn testimony of Chester Ashley, came down the Arkansas River with his family in July, 1812, and located near a spring on the south bank of the river, where he erected a "shack" about eight by ten feet, roofed with clapboards, with boards set up against the sides, too low to stand up in, and open at the ends. Lewis remained there only about three months, "subsisting wholly on the spontaneous productions of the earth and the charity of a few neighbors on the north side of the river, and had not planted or cultivated anything." In October, 1812, William Lewis, before starting up the Arkansas River on a buffalo hunt, gave the boards of his "shack" to a neighbor and never occupied the place again. Upon his return from the buffalo hunt, he and his family lived with William Mabbitt a portion of the year 1813. Then he was absent until March 18, 1814, when he returned in company with Edmund Hogan and again lived with him and Mabbitt until May, when he left the Territory of Missouri for



good. But before the close of 1814 Lewis obtained through the United States land office at Nashville, Tennessee, a certification for a preemption claim, to cover a tract of land on the Arkansas River near the Little Rock, on account of "habitation and cultivation." This claim was sold by Lewis to Elisha White for ten dollars. White sold the claim to Wright Daniels, a settler a few miles down the river, who sold it to Reuben Blunt, and Blunt sold it to Benjamin Murphy. None of these holders of the certificate went to the trouble to perfect a title and the claim finally fell into the hands of William Russell, a professional land speculator. Russell sold, or transferred, parts of the claim to William Trimble. Townsend Dickinson Henry W. Conway and Rufus Spalding. Townsend Dickinson sold his interest to Robert C. Oden and William Russell quit-claimed to Robert Crittenden one-sixteenth of a "preemption to land originally improved by William Lewis and granted to B. Murphy." All this, preparatory to having the seat of government removed to Little Rock, was arranged, it seems, in the fall, or winter of 1819. The Arkansas Gazette of May 27, 1820, then published at Arkansas Post, says: "It is contemplated to remove the seat of government of the territory the ensuing fall from the Post of Arkansas to a place called Little Rock on the south side of the Arkansas river, about three hundred miles above its mouth. The land at Little Rock is in possession of a company of enterprising gentlemen from St. Louis, who have already surveyed and laid off a town; the site of which for natural beauty and advantages is not surpassed by any west of the mountains. \* \* \* It is, moreover, the place, and the only place, where the great road from Missouri to the Red River can cross the Arkansas." When the General Assembly met for the second and last time at Arkansas Post on October 2, 1820, Joseph Harden, of Lawrence county, was chosen speaker of the house. On the 13th Townsend Dickinson conveyed to Harden an interest in the Murphy preemption claim, no doubt for the purpose of enlisting his cooperation in securing the passage of the bill for the removal of the seat of government to Little Rock. The "company of enterprising gentlemen from St. Louis," as mentioned by the Arkansas Gazette, consisted of one person William Russell. The others—Trimble, Dickinson, Crittenden,



Oden et al.,—were all Arkansas politicians, who were, it would seem, more interested in "lining their pockets" than anything else. The act for the removal of the capital was approved by Governor Miller on October 18, 1820, five days after Speaker Harden acquired an interest in the town site, the act to take effect June 1, 1821. In the meantime Frederick Bates, recorder of land titles in Missouri Territory, had issued in the fall of 1815 New Madrid certificates to Eloy Dejarlois, Francis Lessieur and Peter Porier, which entitled them to locate lands in lieu of those they had lost by the New Madrid earthquake. These certificates were bought by William O'Hara, of St. Louis, who assigned to Stephen F. Austin a half interest in the Dejarlois certificate. The 160 acres to which the holder of this certificate was entitled, were located by O'Hara and Austin on February 24, 1819. O'Hara sold to James Bryan a one-sixth interest in the Lessieur claim, of 160 acres, which had been located by James C. Canfield in November, 1819. And to James Bryan O'Hara sold a one-third interest in the Porier claim. Austin disposed of his interest to James Bryan and went to Texas. On August 17, 1820, the deeds relating to these several transfers were filed with Archibald Gamble, a clerk of the court in Jefferson county, Missouri; which deeds were also recorded in Pulaski county by A. H. Rennick, clerk, November 23, 1820. In these documents it was set forth that O'Hara and Bryan "had agreed to lay out and survey the said three tracts of land located by the certificates above described into town lots, streets and commons, \* \* \* in form and manner as appears by a map or town plat hereto annexed." Thus it is plain that O'Hara's and Bryan's town could not have been laid off prior to August 17, 1820. As these New Madrid claims overlapped the Lewis preemption, upon which the Russell crowd based their claim to the land—land upon which Russell had begun laying out a town probably as early as February, 1820—a conflict of interests was inevitable. In the fall of 1819 Russell took the dispute over title to the proposed town site into the courts. And in June, 1821, the Superior Court of the Territory decided the matter in his favor. This decision gave him possession of nearly all the improvements that had been made. The New Madrid claimants were highly indignant. Some of them blew up with powder



most of the buildings they had erected; others moved their buildings off of that portion of the town site of which Russell had obtained possession. Whereupon, in November, 1821, Russell proposed a compromise. Chester Ashley was opposed to having any dealings with Russell; but a majority of the New Madrid claimants, fearing the results of the court's decision and knowing that an effort was being made to remove the seat of government to Crystal Hill, concluded that a compromise was safest. The Arkansas Gazette of December 29, 1821, in the first issue published at Little Rock, says: "Until within a few weeks, the title to the tract of land selected as the town site has been in dispute; but happily for the town and the territory generally, the parties concerned became sensible of the propriety of settling their conflicting claims in an amicable manner, which they have done, and the soil is now free from dispute."

#### THE MISSOURI COMPROMISE—ARKANSAS AND SLAVERY (1820.)

President Monroe approved March 6, 1820, a famous act of Congress, known as the Missouri Compromise. As a result of this act, the differences which had grown up between the North and South over the question of the extension of slavery as applied to the whole of the Louisiana purchase—except, of course, the State of Louisiana—were temporarily settled. The effect upon the subsequent history of Arkansas was fraught with the greatest significance. Thus the way was left open for the Territory of Arkansas, where already there were not a few slaves, to become the slave state that it did. The Compromise, which made an exception of the then Territory of Missouri by providing for its admission to the Union as a slave state, prohibited slavery in all the rest of Louisiana, as purchased of France in 1803, north of the parallel which forms the boundary between Arkansas and Missouri westward to the western boundry of the Louisiana purchase. In all the country south of this line of thirty-six degrees and thirty minutes north latitude the question of the existence of slavery was left for settlement by the people themselves. And since the natural conditions in Arkansas were highly favorable to the



developement of slavery as a profitable institution, the growth of the slave population there kept pace with the ever increasing white population.

#### THE FIRST DUEL FOUGHT IN ARKANSAS (1820).

The first duel between Arkansans was the one fought by William O. Allen and Robert C. Oden on March 10, 1820. Allen was a member of the Legislature and Oden was a young lawyer. Two stories have been told regarding the cause of the duel. One is that Allen, who was some twenty-five years older than Oden and who was lame, became incensed because Oden got possession of his cane and would not return it, playfully retreating as Allen advanced. This was kept up until Allen became angry, limped to his room and wrote the challenge. The other story is that the two men were at dinner together when Oden offered some criticism of a speech Allen had made in the Legislature. As the argument advanced, Oden accused Allen of disputing his word, seized the latter's cane and struck him with it. The duel followed, Allen firing first and the bullet striking a button on Oden's coat and inflicting a serious but not fatal wound. As he was falling he semi-consciously discharged his pistol, the ball struck Allen in the head, killing him instantly. The grand jury of Arkansas County indicted Oden for receiving a challenge, and George W. Scott and Elijah Morton for having acted as seconds. Through technicalities the men were found "not guilty as charged in the indictment." In October, 1820, in part, no doubt, as a result of the unfortunate affair between Allen and Oden, the Legislature passed a law declaring that death resulting from a duel was murder. Courts were required to accept the testimony of seconds, the witness being granted immunity for the part they might have taken. This put an end to dueling in Arkansas, but it was an easy matter for the duelists to evade the law by going outside the boundaries of the Territory or State.

#### THE STEAMBOAT "COMET" AT ARKANSAS POST (1820).

Navigation of the Arkansas River by steamboats was begun as early as March, 1820—almost exactly ten years after



the first steamboat had descended the Mississippi to New Orleans. The "Comet," commanded by Captain Byrne, arrived at Arkansas Post at 10 o'clock p. m., on March 31, 1820. In spite of the hour and the darkness of night, quite a few of the inhabitants were up and at the landing; who, according to the report of the incident as published in the next issue of The Arkansas Gazette, gave Captain Byrne a most cordial welcome. The Captian said that he had made the trip from New Orleans in eight days. Not until January 27, 1821, did the "Comet" come again to the Post. But thereafter, the "Comet" and other steamboats passed up and down the Arkansas at more frequent intervals.

#### DWIGHT MISSION FOUNDED (1820).

The American Board of Missions of the Presbyterian Church decided in 1818 to found a mission among the Cherokee Indians, who resided then in what is now the northwest quarter of the State of Arkansas. Rev. Cephas Washburn was selected by the board to establish and take charge of the mission. Washburn was born in Vermont in 1792 and while still a boy had the misfortune to break his leg by falling from a cart. Unable to work on his father's farm, he became interested in the study of theology, attended Andover Seminary, and in 1818 graduated at the University of Vermont. Immediately after receiving his degree he went to Savannah, Georgia, to engage in the ministry and was soon afterward assigned to the Cherokee mission in Arkansas. In the fall of 1819, accompanied by Asa and Jacob Hitchcock, Alfred Finney and a Mr. Orr, he set out for the Cherokee country. On July 3, 1820, the party reached Little Rock, where Mr. Washburn was waited on by Matthew Cunningham, Stephen F. Austin "and other leading citizens," who requested him "to preach a Fourth of July sermon the next day." The request was granted, and this was the first sermon preached in Little Rock. The audience consisted of "fourteen men and no women." Passing on up the Arkansas River, the party selected a site in what is now Pope County, near the mouth of Illinois Creek, and there established the Dwight Mission, named in honor of Timothy Dwight, president of Yale College and a friend of missions. Two comfortable log cabins were



completed by the first of October, 1820, when Washburn and Finley left the others in charge and returned east for their families. They arrived at the mission again on May 10, 1821, and from that time until the removal of the Cherokees to the Indian Territory in 1828 Mr. Washburn did all he could to advance the interests of his Indian friends. He and Mr. Finney went with the Indians to their new home and ministered to their wants for more than ten years. When Mr. Washburn gave up missionary work he settled in Benton County, Arkansas where he preached and taught school for several years. He was then pastor of a Presbyterian Church at Fort Smith for two or three years and in 1855 removed to Norristown, then a town of some importance, not far from the mission he had established thirty-five years before. In the spring of 1860 he started for Helena, where the Presbyterian Church was without a preacher, but was taken ill enroute and died at the home of Dr. Roderick L. Dodge in Little Rock on March 17, 1860.

#### THE CESSION TO THE CHOCTAW INDIANS (1820).

The Choctaws, by treaty concluded October 20, 1820, were ceded all that part of the Arkansas Territory situated south of the Arkansas River and west of a straight line drawn from Point Remove (near the present town of Morrilton) in a southwesterly direction to Red River. The country so ceded included about one-fifth of the area of the present State of Arkansas. The treaty was negotiated by General Andrew Jackson and General Thomas Hinds, who met the Choctaw chiefs at Doak's Stand, on the old Natchez road, in the State of Mississippi. The Choctaws accepted the lands ceded them in Arkansas in exchange for lands they claimed in Mississippi, whence they agreed to remove to their new home west of the Mississippi. Naturally enough the news of such a treaty raised a storm of opposition in Arkansas. Hundreds of settlers who had selected lands and established their abodes in the country ceded to the Choctaws were threatened, according to the terms of the treaty, with expulsion from the region set apart as the exclusive abode of the Indians.



**THE NAME OF LITTLE ROCK CHANGED TO ARKOPOLIS (1821).**

The *Arkansas Gazette* of February 10, 1821, contains the following "extract of a letter to the Editors, dated Arkopolis, (formerly Little Rock), February 5, 1821. Gentlemen—On the 3rd inst. we had a large and respectable meeting of the citizens of this place and its vicinity, for the purpose of giving it a name; and we unanimously adopted the above—a combination of the first syllable of Arkansas, and the Greek word polis, or 'city'. Notwithstanding the weather was very unfavorable the day passed with much cheerfulness and mirth; and it gave me peculiar pleasure to witness the cordial expressions of good will, and the wishes of all present, for the improvement of our new Seat of Government." The new name, however was soon abandoned. "Little Rock," a name first given to the place by Bernard de la Harpe, the French explorer, in his account of his voyage up the Arkansas in 1722, was by this time too widely current to be changed by the formal resolution of the few inhabitants of the town. La Harpe had called it *La Petite Roche* (Little Rock) in order to distinguish it from the higher rocky bluff (now called Big Rock) situated two miles farther up the river. Thus, from the small out-cropping of stone on the bank of the river, the name of the capital city of Arkansas was conferred upon the site of it nearly a century before the first settlement was made there.

**THE CAPITOL REMOVED TO LITTLE ROCK (1821).**

An Act of the Territorial Legislature, approved by Governor James Miller October 18, 1820, provided that, after June 1, 1821, the sessions of the Legislature and of the Superior Court should be held at Little Rock. Thereafter Arkansas Post, designated as the temporary seat of the territorial government in the act of Congress creating the Territory, lost much of its prestige as the principal center of life and affairs in the Territory. The passage of the act of October 18, 1820, was due chiefly to the representations of Amos Wheeler, who, on behalf of himself, Chester Ashley, William Russell and others, went before the General Assembly with a proposal to donate a site for a capitol building and a guarantee of \$20,000 that a suitable structure for the legislative sessions would be erected



without expense to the Territory. No public buildings of any kind had been erected at Arkansas Post. The legislative session that met in February, 1820, was held at the house of Robert Crittenden and the adjourned session in the following October was held in a house rented from John Larquin. The argument that Little Rock was nearer the geographical center of the Territory, and that the site was not in danger of overflow, had, no doubt, some weight.

**"THE ARKANSAS HERALD"—THE SECOND NEWSPAPER (1821).**

The Arkansas Gazette of September 22, 1821, published an announcement of a new newspaper, which the publishers, "John H. Wilkins and Company," said would begin publication "about November 1st," at Davidsonville, then the county site of Lawrence County. Though there are now no copies of the Herald known to be in existence, there seems but little doubt that this was the second newspaper published in the Territory of Arkansas.

**THE STEAMBOAT "EAGLE" AT LITTLE ROCK (1822).**

The "Eagle", commanded by Captain Morris, was the first steamboat that ascended the Arkansas River as far as Little Rock. It arrived there on March 16, 1822, "seventeen days from New Orleans," according to The Arkansas Gazette of March 19th, the next issue after the event. The boat arrived at an early hour in the morning, and Captain Morris, in order to "arouse the town," fired a salute of several guns. After a stop of about an hour, the "Eagle" continued on its way up the river to Dwight Mission. But on account of the low stage of the water, Captain Morris was compelled to unload the freight of the "Eagle," which was intended for the Mission, at a point some ten miles below and turn back. Thus, on the 19th of March, he arrived again at Little Rock, whence he proceeded on his return voyage to New Orleans.

**THE MILITARY ROADS—THE FIRST MOVE TO OPEN THE MEMPHIS-LITTLE ROCK ROAD (1824).**

During the years that Arkansas continued as a Territory from 1819 to 1836—a considerable sum of money was appropri-



ated from time to time by the United States Government for the opening and construction of roads in different parts of the Territory. The several roads for which these appropriations from the national treasury were made were known either as military roads or post roads. The military roads were so-called because the chief purpose of the government in the construction of such was the intent to facilitate the movement of troops and munitions of war to and from the western frontier, and from point to point along the western boundary of the Territory. The military roads were intended also to expedite the removal of the Southern Indian tribes to the Indian Territory; which removals, after 1824, became the settled policy of the national government. The post roads manifestly were opened as routes for the carrying of the mail. In 1824 Congress appropriated \$15,000 for the survey etc., of a military road from Memphis to Little Rock. This was the beginning of road building by the government in Arkansas. Subsequently, additional appropriations were made, and, by 1828, the road from Memphis had been opened all the way to Fort Gibson, through Little Rock and Fort Smith. Altogether, first and last about a quarter million dollars were spent by the government on that part of this road alone from Memphis to Little Rock. The north and south military road was begun in 1832. This road was, during the years from 1832 to 1836, opened from Hicks' Ferry, on Current River, to Fulton, on Red River. It crossed White River some eight miles below Batesville; the Arkansas, at Little Rock. There was a western branch of this road, from Washington westward to Fort Towson.

#### THE QUAPAWS CEDED ALL OF THEIR LANDS IN ARKANSAS TO THE UNITED STATES (1824).

By treaty, in 1818, the United States acquired possession of all lands claimed by the Quapaw Indians in Arkansas except a triangular tract south of the Arkansas River (see First Quapaw Treaty, 1818). In a second treaty, concluded November 15, 1824, the Quapaws ceded the rest of their claim, as secured to them for a reservation by the treaty of 1818. The latter treaty, that of 1824, was negotiated at the house of Bartley Harrington by Robert Crittenden, who, at the time,



was acting governor of Arkansas. Under instruction from John C. Calhoun, Secretary of War, Crittenden inveigled the Quapaws into an acceptance of the cession against their will. They agreed to remove to the country inhabited by the Cad Indians, the removal from Arkansas to commence not later than January 20, 1826. For their lands in Arkansas the United States agreed to pay each of the four head chiefs of the Quapaw Nation the sum of \$500; to give, for the use of the tribe, merchandise valued at \$4,000, and to pay them an annuity of \$1,000 in specie for a term of eleven years. According to agreement, the removal of the Quapaws was effected in 1826. A Frenchman, Antoine Barraque, was appointed to conduct them to their new abode. The lands assigned them in the Caddo country were in an unhealthy location. Many of the tribe sickened and died, among them Chief Heckaton. Their crops were destroyed by floods and they become so discouraged that a large number returned to their old homes on the Arkansas River. They found their lands there in the hands of white settlers and they were wanderers upon the face of the earth. On May 13, 1833, the United States, by a new treaty, gave them a reservation in the Indian Territory.

#### THE WESTERN BOUNDARY ESTABLISHED SOUTH OF THE ARKANSAS RIVER (1825).

Of the several Indian treaties touching the matter of land titles in Arkansas, none was of greater historical importance than the second Choctaw treaty, concluded January 20, 1825; which treaty settled permanently the western boundary question from the Arkansas River south to the Red River. As established by Act of Congress March 2, 1819, in the act creating the Territory, the western boundry of Arkansas was designated as the "western territorial line"; which meant that it included the present State of Oklahoma, and more. According to the terms of the treaty with the Choctaws of October 18, 1820, the western boundary of Arkansas—south of the Arkansas River—was fixed at a line drawn from Point Remove on the Arkansas, in a southwesterly direction to Red River. Mention is made of the indigantion raised in Arkansas by this arrangement in the topic entitled: "The Cession to the



Choctaw Indians (1820.)” It was frequently and openly asserted in Arkansas at the time that General Jackson and General Hinds, who negotiated the treaty of 1820, were ignorant of the true nature, location and settlement of the country ceded by them to the Choctaws. Following the treaty of 1820, many settlers were compelled to abandon their settlements in the ceded region. Petitions were sent from Arkansas to Washington asking that a new treaty be drawn. Thus, in November, 1824, John C. Calhoun, Secretary of War, summoned a number of the Choctaw chiefs and head men to Washington. More than two months were spent in making proposals and counter proposals. On January 20, 1825, a treaty was concluded, in which the Choctaw delegates ceded to the United States “all that portion of land ceded to them by the second article of the treaty of Doak’s Stand, lying east of a line beginning on the Arkansas River one hundred paces east of Fort Smith, and running thence due south to Red River; it being understood that this line shall constitute and remain the permanent boundary between the United States and the Choctaws \* \* \* .”

#### THE FIRST CHURCH HOUSE IN ARKANSAS BUILT BY BAPTISTS (1825).

The first regular house of worship erected in Arkansas was built in 1825 at Little Rock by the Baptists. It was situated on the south side of Third street between Main and Scott streets. One who often saw it said of this first church house that it was built of neatly hewed logs. The organization of the church was effected by the Reverend Silas T. Toncray in 1824, who was its pastor from the date of organization until 1829. In the spring or summer of 1832 Rev. Benjamin F. Hall, minister of the Christian (sometimes called Campbellite) Church, came to Little Rock and conducted a series of revival meetings in the Baptist Church. So many of the members turned “Christians” that a Campbellite Church was organized and the Baptist congregation was almost broken up. A few of them did remain faithful to the Baptist creed and later organized what afterward became the First Baptist Church of Little Rock. It seems that the early Baptists were very



liberal in allowing others to use their house of worship. The Presbyterians held services in it for a short time and the constitutional convention of 1836 met within its walls.

#### THE FIRST STEAM SAWMILL IN ARKANSAS (1826).

The first sawmill in Arkansas propelled by steam began cutting lumber at Helena, July 27, 1826. A report of the matter, dated July 28, 1826, to *The Arkansas Gazette*, as published in the issue of August 8, 1826, is as follows: "Yesterday at 12 o'clock a steam sawmill, built by Messrs. Porter & King, in the upper part of our little town, was put in operation, with two saws. It runs extremely well and cuts fast. This mill has been built from the stump in two and a half months. under the direction of Mr. Porter, with not more than from four to six hands. It adds greatly to the prospects of our town by furnishing the means of building without a resort to the tedious and laborious mode of cutting out plank with the whip-saw." By way of comment upon the report of his correspondent, the editor said: "This, we believe, is the first steam sawmill ever erected in the Territory of Arkansas—indeed, we do not know of any machinery whatever in the territory that is propelled by the power of steam. We hope the enterprising proprietors will meet with liberal encouragement; and that their example will be followed by others in the different sections of the territory where a sufficient water-power for similar purposes cannot be conveniently obtained."

#### THE FIRST STAGE LINE (1826).

Before the advent of the railroad, the most popular mode of overland travel was by means of the stage coach. The first stage route in Arkansas was that established by Wright Daniels between Little Rock and Arkansas Post in the fall of 1826. Mr. Daniels had the contract for carrying the mails between the two points and put on coaches for the conveyance of passengers. The coach left Little Rock every Tuesday at noon and arrived at Arkansas Post the following Thursday in the evening. Returning, it left the Post on Friday morning at eight o'clock and arrived in Little Rock on the following Monday about 10 A. M. The fare for the through trip, one



way, was \$8.00, and each passenger was allowed to carry fourteen pounds of baggage. Joseph Henderson was the agent at Little Rock and Eli J. Lewis at Arkansas Post.

#### THE SEMINARY LAND GRANT (1827).

In an act of Congress, approved February 17, 1818, which provided for the establishment of additional land offices in the Territory of Missouri, provision was made also for the reservation of "one township of land on the water of the Arkansas River \* \* \* for the use of a seminary of learning." Thus, more than a year before the Territory of Arkansas itself was formed, Congress proposed to reserve a considerable body of land in the then unorganized Territory for a college or higher institution of learning. Time passed, Arkansas was created a Territory, and nothing was done either by Congress or the Territory to select or use the lands so reserved. But on March 2, 1827, the President approved another act of Congress reserving two townships within the Territory of Arkansas, and for no other use or purpose whatsoever". Governor Izard appointed an agent to select the two townships, but his death occurred before the work was completed and the selection was finished under the administration of Governor Pope. The Gazette of February 2, 1831, said: "Major Elias Rector has just completed the selection of the remainder of the two townships of land which were granted by Congress for seminary purposes in this territory and reported them to the governor last week. \* \* \* The selections which have been made, we understand, are all first class land. If judiciously disposed of, the proceeds arising from their sale or lease may constitute a fund to establish an institution for the education of the youth of the present day, and of future generations, which may rebound to the credit of our territory and to the imperishable honor of the future State of Arkansas." This optimistic view of the editor was never realized. By the act of March 3, 1833, the governor was authorized by Congress to sell twenty sections and apply the proceeds to the erection of buildings, but there is nothing to show that anything was ever done under this act. In the compact of June 23, 1836, which provided for the admission of Arkansas to statehood,



Congress gave the General Assembly full power to manage the donation of the two townships, which were "to be applied solely for the purposes of the donation". On December 17, 1838, Gov. James S. Conway approved an act of the General Assembly making him the agent of the state to sell what remained unsold of the seventy-two sections, at not less than \$10 per acre. At the first public auction on February 17-18, 1840, only four eighty-acre tracts were sold, bringing \$3,312. In his message of the following November, Governor Conway recommended that the minimum price be reduced to \$5 an acre. On December 28, 1840, Governor Yell approved an act fixing the price of the seminary lands at \$6 per acre for all lands sold at private sale within six months; \$5 per acre during the next six months; \$3 for the next six months, and after that time \$3 per acre, "until otherwise altered by law". One can plainly see that, under the terms of this act, a prospective purchaser would have had to wait only eighteen months to secure his land for half of what it would cost him if he had bought within six months after the passage of the act. Besides the clause "until otherwise altered by law" suggested still further reductions in price and had a tendency to retard the sales. Had the entire grant of seventy-two sections been sold at \$10 per acre—the price first fixed by the General Assembly—the sum of \$460,800 would have been realized, from which, of course, certain expenses would have to be deducted. The last blow to the university land grant was dealt by the Legislature of 1844, which memorialized Congress for the right to use the funds received from the sale of the lands for the support of common schools. This privilege was granted and all hope of a state university according to the original plan vanished.

#### THE "LOST COUNTY OF LOVELY" (1827).

An act of the General Assembly, approved by Governor George Izard October 13, 1827, created a new county to which was given the name of Lovely. The county embraced, in part, what was known as the "Lovely Purchase", and thus the county got its name. The Lovely Purchase embraced a large and imperfectly bounded tract of country situated between the western boundary of the Osage cession of 1808



and the Verdigris River. This tract was purchased, in July, 1816, by William and Peter Lovely from the Osage Indians. The United States, by the Cherokee treaty of 1817, granted part of the Lovely tract to the Cherokee Indians. Then, in 1824, by act of Congress, the western boundry of Arkansas was fixed so as to include what was afterwards known as the "forty-mile strip"; which strip constituted the lands erected into the county of Lovely in 1827. By dint of the Cherokee Treaty of 1828, which established the present western boundary of Arkansas, the greater part of Lovely county was cut out of Arkansas. It is said of William Lovely, one of the original purchasers of the Lovely tract, that he was a soldier of the American Revolution; that he afterwards settled in Tennessee, where he became a friend of the Cherokee Indians; moved west with members of that tribe, where he engaged in Indian trade. Thus, in 1816, he purchased of the Osages the tract of land which thereafter took the name of the Lovely Purchase.

#### THE CRITTENDEN-CONWAY DUEL (1827).

In 1824 the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States at Washington intrusted Henry W. Conway with \$7,000 to pay the Quapaw Indians for their reservation. At that time it was no unusual thing for persons handling trust funds to apply some of the money to their own use and replace it before final settlement. Mr. Conway used some of the Quapaw fund. When he reached Little Rock he explained to Mr. Crittenden, then acting governor, what he had done and asked what sum would be needed to satisfy the Quapaw demand. Crittenden replied. "About six thousand dollars." Conway then paid him \$6,400, taking his receipt. A few months later the balance of \$600 was returned to the treasurer of the United States at Crittenden's request. In the campaign of 1825, when Conway and Bates were the opposing candidates for delegate, Crittenden rather favored Conway and nothing was said about the matter. Two years later Crittenden was a supporter of Robert C. Oden, who brought Conway's appropriation of trust funds into the campaign as an issue. Mr. Conway admitted the truth of Oden's charges, but explained that he had withheld the money



with the consent of Mr. Crittenden. In an article in "The Arkansas Gazette" of June 19, 1827, Crittenden denied that he had ever given Conway permission to retain the money. The next issue of the paper contained a communication from Mr. Conway, in which he said:

"I can only reiterate what I have already stated in my circular of the 18th of May, that it was by his permission and assent that I retained the money, or I should have paid over to him the full amount, before any part of the money was wanted for the treaty. \* \* \* In a subsequent conversation on the same subject, Mr. Crittenden mentioned that the whole of the money, he thought, would not be wanted for the treaty, and if it were not perfectly convenient for me to repay it then, that I could refund it to the government on my return to Washington."

The whole question now settled down to one of veracity between Mr. Conway and Mr. Crittenden. Conway's defeat of Oden by a vote of nearly three to one showed clearly which one the people of the territory were most inclined to believe. That expression of confidence evidently chagrined Mr. Crittenden. Under date of August 27, 1827, he wrote to Mr. Conway as follows:

"Sir—I had believed that the newspaper altercation between us had closed with my last publication, and that you would have sought a different issue.

"Indifferent as to who should make the call, I now announce to you that I will challenge you on or before the 20th of October next. I regret, sir, that the peculiar situation of my family precludes an immediate settlement of our difference.

"Colonel Oden will hand you this note and act for me for the present. Col. Benj. Desha will act as my first friend after his arrival, which will be in six or eight days.

"Yours, &c.,

"ROB'T CRITTENDEN."

The duel was fought early on the morning of October 29, 1827, on the east side of the Mississippi River, opposite the mouth of the White River. Wharton Rector acted as Mr. Conway's second and Benjamin Desha as Mr. Crittenden's.



At the first and only fire, Mr. Conway was mortally wounded. He was taken across the river, to the house of William Montgomery, where he died on the 9th of November. The bullet from Conway's pistol passed through the lapel of Crittenden's coat, but did not inflict any injury. Just before leaving Little Rock for the rendezvous, Mr. Conway, perhaps with a premonition of his fate, placed in the hands of William E. Woodruff the above letter he had received from Mr. Crittenden and letters from Sylvanus Phillips and William Montgomery of a later date, to be published in "The Arkansas Gazette" in the next issue after the duel. The letters were intended to show that the affair was not of his seeking, but that he had been forced into it. Mr. Phillips wrote:

"In speaking on the subject of the dispute between yourself and Mr. Crittenden, he (Mr. Crittenden) said he had been badly treated by you and your party, and that there would be a good deal of hard fighting before or after the election; that if you did not challenge him, he would challenge you," etc.

Mr. Montgomery said: "Some time in July, Mr. Crittenden and myself got into conversation about the election, and the abuse in the Gazette on different characters. He said that yourself and he must fight—that it could not be got over, without you made acknowledgments, which he expected you would not do. He also said he had tried every way to get you to challenge him, and if you did not, he would challenge you. I mention this as a friend, that you may be on your guard, and practice, if it is your opinion he will do so.

Mr. Conway's untimely death was sincerely mourned throughout the territory. A Kentucky newspaper, commenting upon the affair, said: "Down in Arkansas, when a man can not be gotten rid of at the polls, he is immediately killed off in a duel."

#### THE WESTERN BOUNDARY ESTABLISHED NORTH OF THE ARKANSAS RIVER (1828).

Of equal historical importance, perhaps, to the Choctaw treaty of 1825, which settled permanently the western



boundary question from the Arkansas River south to the Red River, was the Cherokee treaty of May 6, 1828. Governor Izard was instructed as early as 1825 by the Secretary of War to negotiate with the Cherokees for the cession to the United States of that part of their reservation which, according to the treaty of 1817, lay east of the present western boundary of Arkansas. See topic, "Cherokee Indians Ceded Lands in Arkansas (1817)". But Governor Izard found the Cherokees violently opposed to such a cession so much so, indeed, that the council of the nation had passed sentence of death upon any member of the tribe who should dare to enter into negotiations for a cession of their lands. Thus the matter was delayed until 1828; when a delegation of Cherokee chief and warriors were induced to go to Washington for the purpose of arriving at a settlement of the issue. It was there, at Washington, that a treaty was finally concluded May 6, 1828, which settled the western boundary of Arkansas north of the Arkansas River upon a straight line drawn from the point where the Choctaw boundary line began on the south bank of the Arkansas to the southwest corner of Missouri. See topic, "The Western Boundary Established South of the Arkansas River (1825)".

#### THE SCHOOL LANDS; THE FIRST ATTEMPT TO ESTABLISH PUBLIC SCHOOLS (1829).

The act of Congress of 1819, by which the Territory of Arkansas was established, reserved the sixteenth section of land in each township as "an endowment for the common schools of the township in which said section is located". Ten years passed before the territorial legislature took any steps whatever to render this land grant available for the purpose for which it was intended. By the act of November 21, 1829, the Legislature authorized the county court, upon petition of the citizens of any township, to appoint a trustee of the school lands in such township. It was made the duty of the trustee to lease the land, "for a period not to exceed five years at a time". The money received from such leases was to be applied by the county court towards the support of one or more common schools in the township. But in a



country where land was more plentiful than almost anything else, the trustees found it a difficult matter to lease the school lands for a sum sufficient to establish and maintain public schools, and as no appropriation was made by the General Assembly to supplement the rentals, nothing came of this act. When Arkansas was admitted to the Union as a state in 1836, the constitution, under which the state was admitted, contained a provision to the effect that "it shall be the duty of the General Assembly to provide by law for the improvement of such lands as are or hereafter may be granted by the United States to this state for the use of schools, and to apply any funds which may be raised from such lands, or from any other source, to the accomplishment of the object for which they are or may be intended. James S. Conway, the first governor of the State, said in his inaugural address: "The fabric of the state, when once constructed, must stand for ages. It must be fixed in the understanding and reverence of the people. Let us therefore examine for and collect all materials calculated to enlighten the public mind and diffuse general and useful knowledge. We have ample means for the establishment of such institutions of learning as will insure universal education to the youth of our country. Knowledge is power; it is the lever which sways everything in a popular government." The "ample means" referred to by the governor were, manifestly, the lands embraced in the sixteenth sections. He either overestimated the value of the lands or underestimated the cost of maintaining an effective public school system. Apparently he did not realize the necessity of supplementing the sixteenth section fund by taxation—a method to which the state finally had to resort. The General Assembly of 1837 memorialized Congress for authority to sell the school lands and apply the interest of the money so received for school purposes. This authority was granted by an act of Congress approved February 15, 1843. On February 3, 1843, twelve days before Congress granted the state power to sell the sixteenth sections, Governor Yell approved an act of the Legislature "to establish a system of common schools in the State of Arkansas". It provided that upon the request of the people of any township in which there were as many as five householders and fifteen white children, the county court



should order an election for a commissioner for that township, whose duty it should be to sell, or lease, as the people preferred, the sixteenth section on ten years' credit, at not less than \$2 per acre, the funds thus accruing to be perpetual, only the interest to be used. There was to be elected also a board of three trustees, who should have control of the fund and supervision of the township school or schools. Naturally, this law was a failure, because the fund obtained by the sale of the sixteenth section was insufficient to meet the requirements of anything like an efficient school system. In order to supplement the fund acquired from the sale or lease of the sixteenth section, the General Assembly on December 18, 1844, petitioned Congress for authority to sell the seminary lands and apply the proceeds to the common schools. This permission was given by an act of Congress, approved on July 29, 1846; and by another act, approved March 3, 1847, the state was directed to apply the funds arising from the sale of the saline lands for the same purpose. A new school law was approved by the governor January 5, 1849; which act provided that the funds arising from the sale of the seminary and saline lands should be divided among the counties in proportion to the school population and that the fund should be a perpetual endowment for the schools of the county. In his message to the General Assembly in November, 1850, Gov. John S. Roane took the view that a public school system in a state with as sparse a population as Arkansas had at that time was doomed to failure. He condemned the transfer of the seminary and saline lands to the use of the common schools, characterizing the funds as "a mere pittance", and recommended the repeal of the law giving the seminary funds to the common schools. The General Assembly of 1852 passed an act making the secretary of state ex-officio state commissioner of schools, authorizing the election of a county school commissioner, who was to be ex-officio county school superintendent, and who was required to report to the state commissioner. David B. Geer, secretary of state and ex-officio commissioner, made his first annual report to the governor in 1854. "The condition of common schools in the state," says the report, "presents a gloomy picture, but the friends of education should not be discouraged. The same difficulties experienced by Arkansas in their establish-



ment have been more or less felt in all the new and sparsely settled states. \* \* \* The great obstacle in the organization of common schools is not so much a deficiency in the means to sustain them, but it is attributable to the indifference that pervades the public mind on the subject of education." Governor Henry M. Rector, in his message to the General Assembly in 1860, said: "The common school system seems to be radically defective. In the last report made by the secretary of state, as state commissioner of common schools, it may be seen that there are only twenty-five common schools organized and kept up in the state from the common school fund. This is a sad commentary upon the present system." Such were the educational conditions in Arkansas, as regards public schools, at the beginning of the Civil War in 1861.

#### THE INVENTION OF THE FAMOUS BOWIE KNIFE (1830).

The "Bowie Knife" was, according to the late Governor Dan. W. Jones, the invention of one James Black, a blacksmith, at Washington, Hempstead county. Black was a native of New Jersey, where he was born in 1800; served an apprenticeship, which ended in 1818; removed to Hempstead county, Arkansas, about 1824, where he found employment with another blacksmith by the name of Shaw. Because he fell in love with Anne Shaw, one of his employer's daughters, Black was discharged and located a shop of his own on the Cossatot River, where he became a farmer as well as blacksmith. After a brief residence there, he removed to Washington; married Anne Shaw and established himself as a blacksmith. Being a fine workman, especially in the matter of tempering steel, he soon had all the work he could do. In 1830 James Bowie, while in Washington, procured Black to make for him (Bowie) a knife, according to a pattern which he is said to have whittled out of an old cigar box. Black made the knife, but after completing it made another by a pattern of his own, and when Bowie called for his knife Black offered him his choice of the two. He promptly selected Black's pattern. Not long after this Bowie became involved in a quarrel with three desperadoes and killed them all with the knife Black had made. After that when anyone wanted a knife from Black he would order it to be "made like Bowie's".



It was in this way that the name originated. When Bowie was killed at the Alamo in March, 1836, his body was found surrounded by dead Mexicans and the knife made by James Black still clasped in his hand. Governor Jones said of the knife and its maker: "Other men made knives in those days, and later, but no one has made the 'Bowie Knife' except James Black. He undoubtedly possessed the Damascus secret. It came to him mysteriously and it died in the same way."

#### HOT SPRINGS—THE FIRST BATH HOUSE (1830).

In 1830 Asa Thompson leased the Hot Springs and put up the first bath house for the accommodation of visitors. This first bath house was a primitive affair; for, in 1832, the bathing facilities were described as follows: Directly in front of what is now the site of the Arlington House, and below one of the hot springs, there was a cavity cut into the rock, into which the water flowed. This was used as a bathing pool and had no covering except the bushes with which it was surrounded. The only vapor bath facility was a niche cut into the rock at the base of the mountain where the Big Iron bathhouse was afterward built. The hot water was conveyed into a pool under an open floor, over which was a rude seat for the bather to sit upon; the niche was covered overhead with rocks and boards and in front with a blanket. About fifty feet south of this there was a log bathhouse with one plank tub in it, and a hundred yards still farther south, at the foot of the mountain, was placed another log bathhouse, with a single wooden tub. The population increased during 1832 by the arrival of the Physic brothers and Hiram A. Whittington. Philip Physic opened a little store, but it seems that he did not remain long. Hiram A. Whittington was born in Boston, January 14, 1805. He learned the printer's trade, came to Arkansas in December, 1826, and worked on the "Gazette" at Little Rock until June 1832. He then went to Hot Springs for his health, and in order to make expenses while there started a little store with a capital of \$500. In 1836 he married Miss M. E. Bigham and opened a hotel. In 1842 he sold his store and continued in the hotel business until 1849, when he removed to Mont-



gomery County. He was elected representative from that county to the Legislature in 1850, but soon after that returned to Hot Springs. Featherstonhaugh, the English traveler and geologist, visited the springs in December, 1834, and describes the accommodations as follows: "Four wretched looking cabins, in one of which was a small store, contained all the accommodations that these springs offered to travelers. We had never seen anything worse or more unpromising than they were, but driving up to the store, a Mr. Whittington, who purchases bear skins and other skins of wild animals of hunters, paying for them in the commodities he gets from Little Rock, was obliging enough to say we might take possession of one of the log cabins. Having taken care of our horse we accordingly moved into the first that we had passed on our arrival. It had a roof to it, as well as a little portico, as a defense against the rays of the sun, but this was literally all that it had, for not an article of furniture was there either in the shape of a table or chair. The floor was formed of boards roughly and unevenly hewn, and unfortunately some of them were wanting."

**THE "OLD STATE HOUSE"—TEN SECTIONS OF LAND  
GRANTED FOR ITS ERECTION (1831).**

Governor John Pope, in his first message to the General Assembly, October 13, 1829, urged the necessity for better quarters in which to conduct the affairs of the territorial government. He gave it, also, as his opinion that the United States Government, if properly approached, would provide the means for the financing of the necessary building. Accordingly the General Assembly addressed a memorial to Congress upon the subject; the merits of which memorial were ably presented at Washington both by Governor Pope and Ambrose H. Sevier, the delegate to Congress. Thus, on March 2, 1831, President Andrew Jackson approved an act of Congress appropriating ten sections of public lands in Arkansas "for the purpose of raising a fund for the erection of a public building at Little Rock". The said act of Congress left the matter of selection and sale of the ten sections to the discretion of the Legislature. Whereupon, they, the General Assembly, passed an act in October, 1831, giving the whole ten sections



to Robert Crittenden in exchange for his residence in Little Rock; which act Governor Pope promptly vetoed. Congress then passed another act placing the disposal of the lands and the erection of a statehouse entirely in the hands of Governor Pope. Pope appointed Chester Ashley as his agent to select and sell the lands. By January, 1833, a sufficient sum had been realized to warrant the commencement of the building. Original plans were drawn, at the instance of Governor Pope, by Gideon Shyock, who had designed the Kentucky capitol. The latter recommended, as superintending architect, George Weigart, who brought Shyock's plans to Little Rock. Finding the plans as drawn by Shyock too elaborate, considering the funds available, Governor Pope, with the aid of Mr. Weigart, modified the plans in a manner to cut down the cost to the sum which it was expected would be realized from the sale of the ten sections of land. In the meantime Congress, by an act of June 15, 1832, had granted the territory another 1,000 acres for the erection of a courthouse and jail at Little Rock. This "thousand-acre tract" was sold and the proceeds applied to the erection of the statehouse. Again, in 1836, Congress gave an additional grant of five sections of land towards the completion of the building. Altogether there was raised from the sale of the original ten sections \$31,722; from the sale of the 1,000-acre tract \$16,657; from the sale of the five sections \$38,000. The General Assembly of 1840 appropriated \$37,000 with which the building was finally completed. Thus the total original cost of the building amounted to \$123,379. The land upon which the building was erected was acquired through donations by Chester Ashley, David G. Eller and William Russell, and by the purchase of three other lots from William Russell. The site was conveyed to the Territory by deeds from Ashley, Eller and Russell, made on January 14, 1833.

#### LITTLE ROCK INCORPORATED AS A TOWN (1831).

A law entitled "An Act for the Regulation of the Town of Little Rock," passed by the General Assembly, was approved by Governor George Izard October 27, 1825. This, it seems, was the first piece of legislation framed for the government of Little Rock. Under this act Robert Crittenden, Joseph Henderson, Nicholas Peay, Bernard Smith and Isaac Watkins were elected trustees for the year 1826. Bernard Smith, chosen by the



trustees themselves president of the board, was in effect the first mayor of the town. Another law, "supplementary" of the act of 1825, for the further "regulation of the town," was approved by Governor Izard October 20, 1827. In this latter act Little Rock is twice mentioned as a "corporation". Thus, it may be said that the incorporation of Little Rock, in effect, dates from the passage of the act of October 20, 1827. But it was not until November 7, 1831, that the status of the "corporation" was fully defined as "a body politic and corporate", having a "mayor and town council," who, with their successors, forever, were entitled to exercise "all the privileges and franchises incident to a corporation of body politic". Under the latter act Little Rock elected its first mayor by popular choice. The election was held on January 2, 1832, and resulted in the election of Dr. Matthew Cunningham, mayor; Charles Caldwell, Benjamin Clemens, David Holt and John McLain, councilmen.

#### FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH ESTABLISHED (1832).

In the spring or summer of 1832 the Rev. Benjamin F. Hall, of Kentucky, a noted evangelist of the Christian Church, conducted a series of meetings in the Baptist church house at Little Rock. The teaching of the Christian Church, as taught by Hall, so impressed the members of the little Baptist congregation that "on July 4, 1832, the Regular Baptist Church at Little Rock met for the purpose of renouncing their creed, rules of decorum, their name and every other appendage of human invention, which they did, taking only Jesus as their King and lawgiver, etc.". The names of the parties who took this step were Isaiah Palmer, Cathren Palmer, Maria Toncray, W. Stevenson, Elizabeth Toncray Keesacker, Sarah Caldwell, Letticea Neal, Mary Wilson, Patsy Pyeatt and Pratt Collins. This new association, after renouncing their former creed and name, adopted resolutions in which it was said, among other things, that the church should be known thereafter as a "Christian Church", and its members as "Christians". Thus the first Christian Church in Arkansas was organized. In 1845 they built a brick church on Scott between Third and Fourth streets which acquired the name of the "Town Clock



Church" because the town clock was in its tower. There was a baptistry in the church, the first in the city and members from other communions used it when their members wished to be immersed.

#### THE QUESTION OF ADMISSION TO THE UNION FIRST RAISED (1833).

The United States census 1830 showed that Arkansas had a population of 30,388, of whom 25,671 were whites. In the political campaign of 1831 for delegate to Congress the opposing candidates were Ambrose H. Sevier and Capt. Ben Desha. The latter promised that, if elected, as soon as Arkansas had the population required by law, he would endeavor to secure the passage of a bill providing for the admission of Arkansas to statehood. Sevier contented himself by saying that until the territory had the requisite population, the discussion "of this excitable question is premature. \* \* \*

When we are out of debt, and when we have the population and the means to support a State Government, I am as anxious as the most impatient to see this territory become a State." Sevier was elected, but made no move during that term to have Arkansas admitted to the Union. In 1833 Sevier and Robert Crittenden were the candidates for delegate to Congress. It does not appear that either Crittenden or Sevier alluded to the subject during the campaign. Again Sevier was elected defeating Crittenden by nearly two thousand votes. At the opening of the twenty-third Congress on December 2, 1833, took his seat in the House of Representatives and, before the session was many days old, introduced a bill providing for the taking of a census of the inhabitants of the Territory of Arkansas, for the purpose of "ascertaining her eligibility for statehood." The bill was referred to the committee on territories, which reported favorably. Then, shortly after Sevier had introduced his bill providing for a census of the territory and before that measure had been favorably reported by the committee, a committee of Michigan citizens arrived at Washington with petition asking for the passage of an act to enable the people of that territory to form a constitution and be admitted to statehood. Without waiting to consult with the people of Arkansas, Sevier decided to act upon his



own initiative. In a letter of January 21, 1834, to the Arkansas Gazette, he said: "You will perceive that, on yesterday, I introduced a resolution inquiring into the expediency of permitting the people of Arkansas to form a constitution and come into the Union upon an equal footing with the original States. I have done this for a variety of reasons. Michigan is now applying for admission and I have every reason to believe that her application will be granted. Michigan, of course, will be a free State, and should she go into the Union as such, the happy balance of political power now existing in the Senate will be destroyed, unless a slave State should go in with her. The delegate from Florida is not now in his place, but were he here, and were he to press Florida, it would probably exclude us, and, in that event, our admission, in all probability would be deferred until Wisconsin should apply. When would this application be made? Not for a quarter of a century. Such a procrastination would not be willingly subscribed to by any of our fellow citizens. Upon the whole, I think this not an unfavorable opportunity for our admission. At this time, also, we should be able to come in without trammels upon the subject of salvery. Having no memorial from our Legislature upon the subject, and no petition from the great body of the people, I have taken upon myself this responsibility. The people cannot be injured by my application, inasmuch as their acceptance or refusal of a State Government will depend entirely upon themselves." A few days after this letter was written, a bill was introduced in the Senate to enable the people of Arkansas to form a constitution preparatory to admission into the Union; a similar bill regarding the Territory of Michigan was also introduced in the Senate. Both bills were "laid on the table" near the close of the session, and there they remained.

#### THE FIRST COLLEGE ON ARKANSAS SOIL (1834).

B. W. McDonald, in his "History of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church," says: "On the 28th day of October, 1834, a meeting of the Cumberland Presbyterians of Washington County, Arkansas, was held in the Cane Hill meeting house for the purpose of taking the necessary steps to establish



a school. \* \* \* This school was opened in April, 1835, and was probably kept up in some form until seventeen years afterward, when Cane Hill College was chartered. This school in the wilderness, some say, was the first institution of learning ever established on Arkansas soil. Its prime object was to educate young men, preparing them for the work of the ministry," A hewed log house of two rooms was built and served as a school building until a few years before the commencement of the Civil War. Among the instructors was Rev. Cephas Washburn, a missionary widely known in the early history of Arkansas. In 1850 a brick building was erected, and on December 15, 1852, the college was incorporated by act of the Legislature. At the beginning of the year 1861 the college was in a flourishing condition. Then many of the young men in attendance joined a company of State troops and in May the institution closed its doors. The close of the war found the buildings in ruins, but in 1868 a frame building was erected and the college was reopened, with Rev. F. R. Earle at the head of the faculty of three members. Regular terms were held and classes graduated until October 10, 1885, when the college building was burned. Temporary quarters were obtained and the following year a substantial brick building, two stories high, was erected. The last class of graduates was that of 1887—two young men and one young woman. After struggling along for two years more, the institution closed its doors.

#### THE FIRST THEATRICAL PERFORMANCE (1834).

The following account of the first theatrical performance given in Arkansas is from the Arkansas Gazette of November 4, 1834: "A first attempt at theatrical performance was made in this town, last night, by the 'Little Rock Thalian Society', in the representation of the comedy of the 'Soldier's Daughter', which was performed far better than we had anticipated. The theatre has been fitted up with much taste and judgment, and the scenery does great credit to the talents of the artist. We have neither time nor room to speak of the incidental merits of the actors—indeed, where all performed their parts so well, and so much to the satisfaction of the numerous and respectable audience, it would be invidious to particularize.



As a whole, the performance went off well, entitling the young gentlemen engaged in it to much credit. The same play will be repeated tomorrow evening, together with the celebrated farce of 'Raising the Wind', when we hope all who feel inclined to a few hours' rational amusement will attend, and we feel assured that they will not return dissatisfied. It may not be improper to add that the receipts of the society, after defraying the actual expenses incurred by it in fitting up the house, etc., are to be appropriated to charitable purposes."

A CONVENTION TO FRAME A STATE CONSTITUTION CALLED  
—THE LAST TERRITORIAL LEGISLATURE (1835).

What proved to be the last Territorial Legislature of Arkansas assembled in Little Rock on October 5, 1835. In his message at the opening of the General Assembly, Governor William S. Fulton said: "Considering the pecuniary sacrifices and the increase of burdens which a change of government was calculated to produce, I have doubted the expediency of too sudden a change, but I have felt no desire to check the tide of popular opinion in favor of a State Government; and as the people have willed it, I now feel it to be my duty to forward this important object by all the means competent to be used by the executive power of this Territory." The bill authorizing a constitutional convention passed the house of representatives on October 23rd, by a vote of 27 to 7, and the next day it passed the council, 17 to 11. Notwithstanding the Governor's declaration that he felt it to be his duty to forward this important object, he refused to sign the measure. On November 2nd he returned it to the house, with a message, in which he said:

"I regret that I could not approve the bill which originated in your house, and which was delivered to me some days since, providing for the election of members to a convention to frame a constitution and system of government for the people of Arkansas. \* \* \* My reasons for withholding my approval were, because I did not believe that the General Assembly of the Territory of Arkansas possessed the power to pass such an act; and that, as the executive officer of a territorial government erected by acts of Congress, I had no power to sanction



or concur in such an act. \* \* \* Both branches of the Legislature having passed the bill by such large majorities as clearly to indicate that it would have passed a second time in each house, by a majority of more than two-thirds, I have considered it useless to return the bill to you for reconsideration. Agreeably, therefore, to the provision of the organic law, the bill has now become an act without my signature, so far as it is consistent with the constitution and laws of the United States establishing a Territorial Government in Arkansas."

#### LITTLE ROCK INCORPORATED AS A CITY (1835).

By 1835 the people of Little Rock had decided that the charter of 1831 was inadequate to meet the demands of the rapidly growing town. Consequently, a public meeting was called for the evening of October 14, 1835, at the Presbyterian Church "for the purpose of concerting measures for obtaining from the Legislature a charter for our town, which will enable the citizens thereof to pass and enforce wholesome laws and ordinances", etc. Rev. W. W. Stevenson presided and Lemuel R. Lincoln was chosen secretary. According to the Arkansas Gazette's account of the meeting, Messrs. Roysdon, Ashley, Rorer, Sprague, Crutchfield, Stevenson and Pike were appointed a committee to draft a charter and report to an adjourned meeting at the same place on the evening of the 16th. At the adjourned meeting Dudley D. Mason was called to the chair and C. E. Rice was appointed secretary. The report of the committee was amended slightly and unanimously adopted. It was then referred back to the committee with instructions to make a correct copy and draft a petition to the General Assembly requesting the passage of a law incorporating the city of Little Rock. The committee carried out the instructions, and on November 2, 1835, Governor William S. Fulton approved the act of incorporation. The act provided that the first election for city officers should be held on the second Wednesday in November, 1835, and that the officers then elected should serve until the first Monday in January, 1837. At the first election on November 11, 1835, the following officers were chosen: James Pitcher, mayor; William M. Field, city judge; Sterling H. Tucker, recorder; John N. Boyle, treasurer; R. C. Hawkins, superintendent of streets; Luther



Chase, constable; N. H. Badgett, David G. Eller, William Jordan, Benjamin Linebaugh, Daniel Ringo, F. M. Rutherford, Henry F. Shaw and R. A. Watkins, aldermen.

DAVID CROCKETT, ON HIS WAY TO TEXAS,  
SPENT THE DAY IN LITTLE ROCK (1835).

The following account is taken from the Arkansas Gazette of November 17, 1835: "Among the distinguished characters who have honored our city with their presence, within the last week, was no less a personage than Colonel David Crockett—better known as Davy Crockett—the real critter himself—who arrived on Thursday evening last, with some six or eight followers, from the Western District of Tennessee, on their way to Texas, to join the patriots of that country in freeing it from the shackles of the Mexican Government. The news of his arrival rapidly spread, and we believe we speak within bounds when we say that hundreds flocked to see the wonderful man, who, it is said, can whip his weight in wildcats or grin the largest panther out of the highest tree. In the evening, a supper was given him, at Jefferies' Hotel, by several anti-Jackson men, merely for the sport of hearing him abuse the administration, in his outlandish style, and we understand they enjoyed a most delectable treat in a speech of some length with which he amused them. Having no curiosity that way ourself, we did not attend the show. But our neighbor of the Advocate was there, and so delighted was he, that he says he can now 'die contented'. Happy man The Colonel and his party, all completely armed and well mounted, took their departure on Friday morning for Texas, in which country, we understand, they intend establishing their future abode, and in the defense of which we hope they may cover themselves with glory."

DELEGATES TO THE FIRST CONSTITUTIONAL  
CONVENTION ELECTED (1835).

Agreeable to the act of the General Assembly providing for the holding of a convention to frame a state constitution, delegates to such a convention were elected on December 8, 1835. Among those elected were not a few whose names are distinguished in Arkansas history. Arkansas County elected



Bushrod W. Lee; Arkansas and Jefferson, Terrence Farrelly; Carroll, John F. King; Carroll and Izard, John Adams; Chicot, John Clark and Anthony H. Davis; Clark, John Wilson; Conway, Nimrod Menefree; Crawford, James Woodson Bates, Richard C. S. Brown and John Drennen; Crittenden, John D. Calvert and Wright W. Elliott; Greene, G. L. Martin; Hempstead, Grandison D. Royston and James H. Walker; Hot Spring, James C. Conway; Independence, John Ringgold and Townsend Dickinson; Izard, Charles R. Saunders; Jackson, John Robinson; Jefferson, Samuel C. Roane; Johnson, Lorenzo N. Clarke; Johnson and Pope, Andrew Scott; Lafayette, Josiah N. Wilson; Lawrence and Randolph, Thomas S. Drew, David W. Lowe, Henry Slavens and Robert Smith; Miller, Travis G. Wright; Miller and Sevier, Richard Ellis; Mississippi, Nathan Ross; Monroe, Thomas J. Lacy; Phillips, Henry L. Biscoe and George W. Ferebee; Pike, Elijah Kelly; Pope, Thomas Murray, Jr.; Pulaski, White and Saline, William Cummins, Absalom Fowler and John McLain; St. Francis, Caleb S. Manly and William Strong; Scott, Gilbert Marshall; Sevier, Joseph W. M. Kean; Union, Andrew J. May; Van Buren, John J. Lafferty; Washington, William McK. Ball, Mark Bean, James Boone, Rovey McCamy, David Walker and Abraham Whinnery.

#### THE FIRST CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION (1836).

The first convention to frame a state constitution met on Monday, January 4, 1836, in the Baptist Church at Little Rock. The next day, January 5, John Wilson, of Clark County, was elected president, and Charles P. Bertrand, of Little Rock, secretary. The convention then voted to hold its session in the Presbyterian Church, where it met the next day, and continually thereafter until its work was finished, January 30, 1836, on Saturday. C F. M. Noland, of Independence County, was appointed by the convention as its special messenger to carry the new constitution to Washington City for presentation to Congress. The constitution was signed by all but two of the members of the convention—Nathan Ross, of Mississippi County, and David Walker, of Washington County.



ARKANSAS THE TWENTY-FIFTH STATE  
ADMITTED TO THE UNION (1836).

The people of Arkansas took matters into their own hands by framing and submitting a constitution, as had been done before upon more than one occasion, without waiting for the approval of Congress as expressed in the formality of an enabling act. The Arkansas Gazette, of February 4, 1836, published the proposed constitution of Arkansas in full; a copy of which was received at Washington by Ambrose H. Sevier, delegate to Congress, on the last day of February. Whereupon, Mr. Sevier, without waiting for C. F. M. Noland, who did not arrive with the official copy of the constitution until March 8th, presented it to congress as he found it published in the Gazette. James Buchanan, of Pennsylvania, reported a bill in the Senate for the admission of Arkansas into the Union. A bill for the admission of Michigan, as introduced by Thomas H. Benton, of Missouri, was passed by the Senate April 2nd. The Arkansas bill was then taken up and passed two days later, on April 4th. Both bills were passed in the House of Representatives on June 13th; both were approved also on the same day, June 15th, by President Andrew Jackson. Owing to certain provisions in the Michigan bill, which had to be voted on by the people, Michigan was not finally admitted until January 26, 1837. Thus Arkansas, admitted June 15, 1836, is the twenty-fifth State in the Union.

THE UNITED STATES ARSENAL  
AT LITTLE ROCK BEGUN (1836).

Congress provided for the establishment of an arsenal at Little Rock in the spring of 1836. On the 26th of September, Lieut. F. L. Jones arrived in the city to select the site. A tract of thirty-six acres was recommended and was purchased by the government from Hawkins, McLain and Blodgett for \$3,000. Maj. Richard B. Lee was placed in charge of the construction, and in the spring of 1837 submitted the plans to Gov. J. S. Conway, who on May 24, 1837, wrote to Major Lee suggesting that the appropriation of \$14,000 was too small to provide an arsenal of sufficient capacity. A few months later Lee advised the governor that the appropriation had been



increased to \$40,000 and that the work would be commenced immediately. The plan of the arsenal embraced the storehouse and officers' quarters, fronting toward Ninth Street; the barracks, on the south side of a square, the east and west sides of which were to be occupied by the gun sheds, shops etc. On May 15, 1838, Senator William S. Fulton wrote to the Arkansas Gazette that he had just received information from the Ordnance Department that the following arms and munition had been ordered to Little Rock.

- 16 six-pounder cannon,
- 1,800 charges of grapeshot, etc.,
- 8,500 muskets,
- 1,500 Hall's rifles,
- 30 barrels of rifle powder,
- 7,000 pounds of rifle balls,
- 1,000,000 musket cartridges,
- 8,500 infantry accouterments,
- 1,500 rifle accouterments.

These supplies, amounting to 100 tons, arrived on the steamboats "Elk" and "Little Rock" on June 23, 1838, and the arsenal soon afterward "went into commission". Work on the buildings went on for several years, the total cost of the arsenal being nearly \$100,000. At the beginning of the war between the States, in the spring of 1861, the arsenal was peaceably surrendered to the State authorities. After the war it was continued as an army post until 1893, when the citizens of Little Rock acquired 1,000 acres of land on Big Rock, on the north side of the river, which was offered to the Government in exchange for the old arsenal grounds. The offer was accepted and the new fort named Logan H. Roots, after Colonel Logan H. Roots, who had been active in effecting the exchange. Thus the old arsenal grounds became the property of the city and was converted into what is known now as the City Park.

#### THE FIRST STATE ELECTION (1836).

As provided by the constitution, the first State election in Arkansas was held August 1, 1836. State conventions, much less primary elections, had not then come into general



use. Nominations were most commonly made in local public meetings, to which all the citizens of the county, for example were invited. The first such mass meeting, for the purpose of nominating candidates for the office of governor and members of Congress, was held at Fayetteville, on May 14, 1836. Robert McCamy was elected chairman of the meeting; which adopted, as the important part of its proceedings, a resolution favoring James S. Conway for governor; Archibald Yell, for Congress; and recommending the election of Ambrose H. Sevier to the United States Senate by the General Assembly. A similar meeting was held June 14th in Lawrence County. A mass meeting of citizens of Pulaski, White and Saline Counties was held at Little Rock on June 18th. Both the latter endorsed the candidates nominated at Fayetteville in May. Meanwhile, a committee of the Fayetteville meeting, composed of B. H. Smithson, Isaac Murphy, J. M. Hoge, James Boone and Onesimus Evans, had communicated with Mr. Conway for the purpose of inducing him to become a candidate. And, on July 5th, after the meetings in Lawrence and Pulaski, his acceptance of the nomination was published in *The Arkansas Gazette*. Thus Conway for governor, Yell for Congress and Martin Van Buren for President of the United States headed the ticket of what was then known as the Democratic-Republicans. An opposition ticket was got into the field in the same manner. The opposition, which called itself the People's ticket, nominated Absalom Fowler for governor; William Cummins, for Congress, and supported Hugh L. White for President. Of the votes cast for governor, Conway received 5,338; Fowler, 3,222. For Congress Yell received 6,094; Cummins, 2,379.

The campaign really marked the beginning of political parties in Arkansas. During the territorial period the people were frequently divided into factions, following personal leaders, and these factions have sometimes been erroneously referred to as parties. That the party spirit was not fully developed in 1836 is seen in the names given to the opposing tickets, to-wit: "Democratic-Republican Ticket" and "People's Ticket." They subsequently become known as the Democratic and Whig parties, respectively. In the



campaign the former was referred to by the Fowler supporters as the "Van Buren Ticket".

#### THE FIRST STATE LEGISLATURE (1836).

The constitution of 1836 provided that the General Assembly should consist of a Senate and House of Representatives; that the Senate should consist of not fewer than seventeen and not more than thirty-three members; that the House should consist of not fewer than fifty-four nor more than one hundred members; and divided the State into districts for the election of members of the two houses. It was also provided that the members elected on the first Monday in August should meet on the second Monday in September. The statehouse, though not completed, was put in condition for the session, which assembled therein on Monday, September 12, 1836. Samuel C. Roane was elected president of the senate; John Wilson, speaker of the house of representatives.

#### JAMES S. CONWAY, FIRST GOVERNOR OF THE STATE, INAUGURATED (1836).

A public meeting was held in Little Rock on the afternoon of September 12, 1836, with Mayor James Pitcher presiding, for the purpose of planning a fitting public demonstration in celebration of the event of the first inauguration of a governor of the State. James De Ba— was selected as marshal and given full power to appoint his aides. Shortly after noon on the 13th a procession was formed and moved to Governor-elect Conway's residence to escort him to the capitol. First came Captain Kavanaugh's company of mounted volunteers, then a band of music, next carriages containing Mr. Conway, W. S. Fulton, A. H. Sevier, Judge Edward Cross, Lieutenant-Colonel Rector and Captain Brown, of the United States Army, and the carriages were followed by a large body of citizens. Upon arriving at the capitol, Governor Conway was conducted to the Hall of Representatives, where he delivered a short inaugural address. The oath of office was then administered by Albert Pike, after which a salute of twenty-six guns were fired. The procession then reformed and escorted the governor back to his home.



## THE REAL ESTATE BANK INCORPORATED (1836).

The Constitution of 1836 authorized the General Assembly to incorporate two banks—"one State Bank, with such amount of capital as may be deemed necessary, and such number of branches as may be required for public convenience," etc., and "one other banking institution, calculated to aid and promote the great agricultural interests of the country. \* \* \* " Accordingly, the first General Assembly of the State passed, and Governor James S. Conway approved October 26, 1836, an act incorporating a "Real Estate Bank", which bank was intended to forward the agricultural interests of Arkansas. Agreeable to the language of the constitution, the act of incorporation provided also for the raising of funds as capital for the bank upon a pledge of the faith and credit of the State. Thus, the original charter called for an issue of \$2,000,000 in bonds by the State, the bonds to bear interest at the rate of six per cent, the proceeds from the sale of which were to constitute the working capital of the bank. In return for the loan of its credit as security against the loss of its \$2,000,000 in bonds, the State took mortgages on the real estate of the stockholders of the bank. The stockholders mortgaged a total of 127,500 acres of land to the State, which they claimed was worth \$48 dollars an acre, or a total value of \$6,120,000, to secure the payment of the 2,000,000 in bonds. Disinterested appraisers valued the land at \$2,603,000, and many thought these figures too high, an opinion fully sustained by subsequent developments. The main bank was located at Little Rock, with branches at Helena, Philips County; at Columbia, Chicot County, and at Washington, Hempstead County. By this arrangement the northwestern part of the State deemed itself neglected. And on February 24, 1838, Governor Conway approved an act authorizing a fourth branch, to be located at Van Buren, Crawford County, and the issuance of \$500,000 in bonds to procure its capital. The stockholders of this branch mortgaged to the State 79,601 acres of land, valued at \$751,830. In September, 1838, the central board of directors disposed of 1,530 of the bonds at par (\$1,530,000). The Treasurer of the United States purchased 500 of these bonds, to be held in trust for the benefit of the



Smithsonian Institution; Joseph D. Beers, of New York purchased 1,000; and the other thirty were sold to Richard M. Johnson, then Vice-President of the United States. On December 12, 1838, the main bank at Little Rock opened its doors for business. The Helena branch was opened February 15, 1839; the Columbia branch on the 5th of March following, and the Washington branch on the first of April. On October 31, 1839, the loans and discounts of the parent bank and branches amounted to \$1,585,190.80. Two days later the parent bank at Little Rock suspended specie payment, a policy which was quickly followed by all the branches. Then the trouble commenced. Suspension of specie payment was expressly prohibited by the bank's charter, which provided, among other things, that for every refusal to redeem its notes and obligations in current money of the United States, the injured party might recover damages at the rate of ten per cent per annum on the full amount of the note in question. Nor was there any good reason for suspension. At the time the order was issued the bank's outstanding circulation was \$156,910, its loans and discounts exceeded its capital by only \$85,190.80, and it had in its vaults in gold and silver \$111,967.54—a much larger specie reserve than banks of that day were accustomed to carry. Under an act of the General Assembly, approved January 15, 1855, Governor Elias N. Conway, appointed William R. Miller and William M. Gauge, expert accountants, to investigate the Real Estate Bank. They made a report on June 27, 1856, by which the gross assets of the bank were shown to be \$5,006,507, more than half of which, or \$2,514,500, the accountants found to be worthless. This left as the net assets \$2,492,007. The liabilities amounted to \$2,415,759. By foreclosure of the mortgages on the lands given it as security against the loss of its bonds, the State eventually recovered, for the most part, the money which it had borrowed for and advanced to the bank. Of the so-called Holford bonds, or the \$500,000 in bonds issued under the act of 1838, which bonds were intended to procure capital for the opening of a branch bank at Van Buren, the history is given elsewhere.



## THE STATE BANK OF ARKANSAS INCORPORATED (1836).

The constitution of 1836 authorized the establishment of a State bank. Accordingly the first General Assembly lost no time in creating such a bank. A charter, in the form of an act of the General Assembly, was approved by Governor James S. Conway November 2, 1836—just a week after his approval of a similar act incorporating the Real Estate Bank. Thus the “faith and credit” of the State was capitalized to the amount of another \$1,000,000 by the issue of bonds bearing interest at the rate of five per cent; which \$1,000,000, with the surplus promised from the Treasury of the United States, the five per cent fund from the sale of public lands, the seminary and salt springs funds, were expected to furnish all the capital necessary for such a bank. The main bank was to be located at Little Rock, with branches at Batesville and Fayetteville. A third branch was afterward established at Arkansas Post, by an act of the General Assembly of 1837. In 1838 a fourth branch Bank, the State Bank had no private stockholders. It was a public trust, created to be the fiscal agent of the State; the State furnished its capital; the State assumed sole responsibility for its debts. The Legislature had absolute power to direct its affairs. Owing to the low rate of interest provided for, five per cent, only \$169,000 was realized from the sale of the original bond issue of \$1,000,000. In 1837 another issue of \$1,000,000 in bonds was authorized at six per cent; and, in 1838, still another, of \$300,000. Of these several bond issues, there were sold, first and last, but \$1,169,000 worth. The bank received \$286,156 as surplus revenue from the United States Treasury. The five per cent fund yielded \$26,725. On November 1, 1839, the bank suspended specie payment. Its outstanding circulation then amounted to \$43,420 and it had on hand the sum of \$76,678.17 in specie. In 1842, by act of the General Assembly, the bank was placed in liquidation. The process of liquidating assets, accounting for losses by defalcation and what not, was continued until 1860, when it was found that, of the 1,169 bonds sold for \$1,000 each, there were then 610 bonds unredeemed. The unpaid interest on the bonds amounted to \$677,717, which, added to the principal, made a debt against the State of \$1,287,717. During



the war nothing was done about the debt. The debt was funded in 1868, when new bonds were issued for \$1,147,522 as the debt then outstanding against the State on account of the State Bank.

**THE FIRST STEAM FERRY BOAT ON THE  
ARKANSAS RIVER (1838).**

The Arkansas Gazette of July 4, 1838, contained the following account of the first steam ferry on the Arkansas:

"We are gratified in being able to announce the arrival, on Wednesday morning last, of the steam ferryboat Little Rock, which was built expressly for the lower ferry and this place, where she will commence running so soon as the necessary floats or warf-boats can be constructed on each side of the river, for her to land at.

"This boat was built at Cincinnati, since March last, under the personal superintendence of Capt. Thomas J. Haldeman (The late commander of the steam-boat Arkansas), and is one of the strongest built boats on the Western waters. She is 86 feet long by 33 feet wide, to the extremity of her guards, with 3 1-2 feet depth of hold, and has a beautiful new engine of sufficient strength and power to give her speed equal to most of the boats on the Arkansas. Her trip from Cincinnati to this place was made in eight days and 18 hours, with between 30 and 40 tons of freight on board; and she has since her arrival given evidence of the great power of her engine by towing a flat-bottomed boat (nearly 90 feet long by over 18 feet wide), with nearly 50,000 feet of plank and scantling, a distance of nearly 40 miles. She has a comfortable cabin for passengers, officers' room, cook room, etc., with capacious gangways (forward and on each side of the boilers) sufficient for two of the largest wagons and teams, 3 or 4 smaller carriages, 20 or 30 head of horses or cattle, with sufficient other room for more than 200 foot passengers.

"Travelers may now rely on having a safe and expeditious mode of crossing the Arkansas, at the lower ferry, at all stages of the river, which will probably tend as much toward the prosperity of our thriving town as any other improvement, to the same extent, that could be made.



"It is expected that she will commence plying regularly on the ferry in the course of next week—at all events, as soon as the wharf-boats can be prepared."

#### ARKANSAS A MISSION OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH (1838).

On September 16, 1838, Rt. Rev. Leonidas Polk was elected missionary bishop of Arkansas by the Episcopal convention at Philadelphia. When news of this reached the state, the *Arkansas Gazette* of October 31, 1838, said: "This will be pleasing intelligence to the Episcopalians in this state, many of whom have not heard the peculiar service of their church for many years. Churches of various denominations have been established in all parts of Arkansas, but we do not believe that a minister of this denomination has ever preached within our bounds." Polk was born in North Carolina in 1806; graduated at the West Point Military Academy in 1827; attended the Episcopal Theological Seminary at Alexandria, Virginia; was ordained priest in 1830; was appointed missionary bishop of the southwest on September 16, 1838, a field covering Alabama, Arkansas, Indian Territory, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas. On May 20, 1841, this territory was divided and he was made bishop of the separate diocese of Louisiana. At the beginning of the Civil War he entered the Confederate army and was killed at Pine Mountain, Georgia, June 15, 1864. In the spring of 1840 Bishop Polk sent Rev. William H. C. Yeager to Little Rock and a small congregation was organized, which developed into Christ Church parish. Among the original members of this church were: John H. Crease, Gordon N. Peay, T. D. Merrick, William E. Ashley, John E. Reardon, Lavinia Reardon, Mrs. Helen Scott and Miss Harrit Grafton.

#### THE ARKANSAS GRAND LODGE OF MASONS ORGANIZED (1838).

On November 21, 1838, representatives of four Masonic lodges organized, at Little Rock, the Grand Lodge of Arkansas. These four lodges, which thus effected the organization of the Grand Lodge, were then the only Masonic lodges in the state. They were: Washington Lodge, of Fayetteville, organized in 1836; Western Star Lodge, of Little Rock, organized in



February, 1838; Morning Star Lodge, of Arkansas Post, organized in 1838; Mount Horeb Lodge, of Washington, organized in 1838. William Gilchrist was elected the first Grand Master; George C. Watkins, the first Grand Secretary. In the new organization, Washington Lodge became No. 1; Western Star, No. 2; Morning Star, No. 3; Mount Horeb, No. 4.

#### THE ARKANSAS PENITENTIARY ESTABLISHED (1838).

On December 13, 1838, Gov. James S. Conway approved an act of the General Assembly making an appropriation of \$20,000 for a penitentiary, to be located at some point convenient to the seat of government. Commissioners were appointed to select a site. On July 24, 1839, they reported that they had purchased from P. T. Crutchfield 92.41 acres, "about a mile and a quarter west of Little Rock, for \$20 per acre." Construction of a prison was commenced soon after the purchase of the location, but the building was not completed until 1842. Four years after the penitentiary was first occupied as a prison, the main building was destroyed by fire, during a revolt of a few of the convicts bent upon making their escape. The Arkansas Democrat of July 31, 1846, says: "The main building of the penitentiary was destroyed by fire on Thursday, the 30th of July. \* \* \* The most immediate cause of the revolt and destruction of the building was the recent and entire change in the agents and keepers of the prison, by which raw and inexperienced men were placed in charge of the prisoners. We understand that only five of the convicts (including Morgan, who was killed by another convict on the side of the keepers,) were actively concerned in the revolt, and that some ten or twelve of the convicts declared themselves ready to aid the keepers, and several of them did actually render efficient service." On December 23, 1846, Governor Thomas S. Drew approved an act providing for the rebuilding of the penitentiary at a cost not to exceed \$10,000 and the contract was let to George Brodie for that amount. The new building was occupied in 1849. During the early years of the Civil War, Federal prisoners were confined in the penitentiary, and after Little Rock was occupied by the Union forces commanded by General Frederick Steel in September, 1863, it was



converted into a place for the confinement of Confederate prisoners. The General Assembly of 1899 provided for the erection of the New State capitol on the site of the old penitentiary. A new site for the penitentiary was afterwards acquired in the southwestern part of Little Rock, where the State's prison known as "The Walls" was completed and occupied in 1910.

THE FIRST THEATRE FOR PROFESSIONALS OPENED; ALBERT PIKE'S POEM IN HONOR OF THE OCCASION (1839).

From the Arkansas Gazette, January 23, 1839: "The new theatre, under the management of Mr. Waters, opened on Wednesday night last. The house was crowded with a respectable audience, and we were gratified to observe that the "dress circle" was filled with a great share of the beauty and fashion of the city, which will vie with any in the Union for appearance and proportionate numbers.

"Previous to the performance, a pretty little address, written for the occasion, by Albert Pike, Esq., was delivered by Mrs. Waters, which will be found below. The pieces on the first night were Charles the Second, and the 'Young Widow,' which were performed to the delight of the audience.

"For a small company, the performers are very effective, and combine considerable dramatic talent—sufficient, at all events, to render their acting highly amusing, and frequently intensely interesting, as the tearful eyes of a portion of the audience sometimes testify. Messrs. Douglass, Wharam, Waters McCurdy and Wolfe, would do credit to any theatre, and the ladies of the establishment, Mrs. Walters and Miss Armstrong, in some of their characters cannot be surpassed.

"We are somewhat surprised that so few of our country friends visit the theatre. The nights are now moonlit and pleasant; the performances close at an early hour, and a ride of six or eight miles on a brisk pony would not be unpleasant, particularly if there were a lot of lively girls in company. Besides good acting they would sometimes hear good singing and see good dancing; Sam Waters does all that himself.

"We see our fastidious neighbors of the Times are getting



somewhat severe in their strictures on the character of the pieces performed. For our part, we see no occasion for it; a bit of harmless pleasantry on the stage gives the entertainments a zest, and if people don't wish to be thought to like it, why, they needn't appear to understand it."

### ADDRESS

On the opening of the Little Rock Theatre,

By Albert Pike.

Delivered by Mrs. Waters.

(Behind the scenes)

Now don't persuade me—for I cannot do it.

(Coming forward)

You barbarous man. I never shall get through it.

(Going round as if to escape)

No door left open! Where, where shall I go?

What shall I do? I'll faint with fright, I know.

(Coming forward)

I'm so confused; I'll speak—oh, no' I do not dare;

And yet you look good-natured, I declare.

Ladies will *you* hear what I have to say

In my good man's behalf? I will not long delay.

Here late the Indian held undoubted sway—

(Those not yet old, can recollect the day;)

Here, where we stand, a dense, dark forest stood,

And the Arkansas rolled its troubled flood,

Through pathless wilderness, to the ocean.

All now is changed, Life, with its constant motion,

Is eddying her, and wit, and grace, and beauty,

Approved our humble efforts, and make duty

A pleasure exquisite, while we engage,

The first time here to introduce *the stage*.

Here have we cast our lot, in pleasant places,

And yours already are familiar faces.

Here do we hope to pass our future days,

Cheer'd by the kindly guerdon of your praise.

Like mariners wafted by pleasant breeze,

Graced by your kindness, we still hope to please,

To give for reprehension or rebuke no cause,



But still become more worthy your applause.  
Our object to amuse—be not severe,  
Nor listen with too critical an ear;  
But view our efforts with indulgent eye,  
And pass our imperfections lightly by.  
Scan not too closely our poor bill of fare,  
Since to improve it is our daily care,  
Until a nightly banquet we insure  
Fit for the palate of an epicure.  
We have no fears—a generous audience  
Gives to the trembling actress confidence;  
Cheers the rough road—the heavy task makes light,  
And gives new zeal on each returning night.  
We are resolved to please—and we will do it;  
And now, kind friends, say—*Shall Sam Walters rue it?*

THE FIRST LODGE OF THE INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD  
FELLOWS ORGANIZED (1839).

The following advertisement appeared in the Arkansas Gazette of August 7, 1839:

I. O. O. F.

Far West Lodge No. 1 of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows of the State of Arkansas will be opened in the City of Little Rock, on Monday, the 12th inst., after which the installation of officers will take place according to ancient usage.

Transient brethren and brethren in good standing are invited to attend. By order.

Little Rock, August 5, 1839.

THE BEGINNING OF COAL MINNING IN ARKANSAS (1840).

The Arkansas Gazette of January 15, 1840, published the following news: "Mr. Walker, a gentleman practically acquainted with coal mining operations, left at our office, a few days since, a specimen of excellent anthracite coal, which he had procured on land belonging to Mr. E. B. Alston, at Spadra Bluff, in Johnson county, a few yards from the bank of the Arkansas. From a partial experiment we made in burning it,



we think it the best we have ever seen, from the fact of its igniting more freely than any coal of the kind used east of the Alleghanies. This is the first anthracite we recollect hearing of being found west of the mountains, and will no doubt prove a profitable source of business to the miners, and an economical fuel for domestic and manufacturing purposes. Mr. Walker has leased the land of Mr. Alston, and gone to the north to procure laborers acquainted with the business, with a view of immediately entering on the prosecution of it. We have no doubt that in a few months such of our citizens as wish for a more economical fuel than we have heretofore been using will be able to obtain a supply of this coal, which will make a saving of full fifty per cent in the cost of the article. The mere price paid for hauling wood in Little Rock would more than pay the whole cost of the anthracite. The additional comfort of its use will prove a great inducement to burn it when our citizens once become acquainted with it and familiar with the process of igniting it, the difficulty of which is the only objection we ever heard urged against it. One good fire of it will, in ordinary weather in this climate, last the whole day without replenishing, and prove a saving, not only of money, but of the annoyance of constantly replenishing a wood fire to preserve an even temperature."

THE "ARKANSAS TRAVELER"—HOW IT ORIGINATED (1840).

The tune of the "Arkansas Traveler" belongs, no doubt, to that class of music commonly known as folk songs. As such, it is not, of course, the composition of only one person. But the fact seems to be pretty well established that Sandford C. Faulkner was the man who brought the air into prominence and for that reason came to be known as the original "Arkansas Traveler". Sandford C. Faulkner was born in Georgetown, Kentucky, March 3, 1803. In 1829 he came to Arkansas and located in Chicot county, where he became interested in cotton planting. Ten years later he removed to Little Rock. During the Civil War he was captain of ordnance at the arsenal until Little Rock was occupied by the Federals in 1863. He then went to Texas, where he remained until the close of the war. Returning to Little Rock, he again engaged in business as a planter until a few years before his death,



when he sold his two plantations and lived practically retired from active business. He died on August 4, 1874. In a notice of his death the Arkansas Gazette of the 5th said: "It is well known throughout the Southwest that Colonel Faulkner was the original impersonator of the 'Arkansas Traveler', and it was his pride to be known as such. The story, it is said, was founded on a little incident which occurred in the campaign of 1840, when he made the tour of the state in company with the Hon. A. H. Sevier, Governor Fulton, Chester Ashley and Governor Yell. One day, in the Boston Mountains, the party approached a squatter's cabin for information of the route and Colonel 'Sandy' was made spokesman of the company, and it was upon his witty response the tune and story were founded. On the return to Little Rock, a grand banquet was given in the famous 'barroom' which used to stand near the Anthony House, and Colonel 'Sandy' was called on to play a tune and tell the story. Afterward it grew in popularity. When he went to New Orleans, the fame of the 'Arkansas Traveler' had gone before him, and at a banquet, amid clinking glasses and brilliant toasts, he was handed a violin by the then governor of Louisiana and requested to favor them with the favorite Arkansas tune. At the old St. Charles Hotel a special room was devoted to his use, bearing in gilt letters over the door, 'Arkansas Traveler' ".

#### FORT SMITH (INCORPORATED 1842).

The "town of Fort Smith" was incorporated by an act of the General Assembly approved December 24, 1842. Major Stephen H. Long selected, in 1817, as a suitable location for the erection of a military post, a point of land between Arkansas and Poteau Rivers. "In allusion to its peculiar beauty," as he said, Major Long called the place "Belle Point". Later, the next year perhaps, General Thomas A. Smith, then in command of the Ninth Military Department, appointed Major William Bradford commandant of the post and ordered him to erect the necessary fort. By September, 1820, the buildings of the fort, though only partially completed, "formed two sides of a hollow square, terminated by strong blockhouses at the opposite angles and fronting towards the river". Mean-time, the name of the post had been changed to Fort Smith, in



honor of the commander of the military department in which the new fort was situated. Major William Bradford was commandant until February, 1822, when he was succeeded by Colonel Matthew Arbuckle. The western boundary of Arkansas from the Arkansas River to the Red River, as fixed by the Choctaw treaty of 1825, began at the Arkansas "one hundred paces east of Fort Smith". Thus, in 1837, or perhaps 1838, it was decided to abandon the old fort and erect a new one on the border within the boundaries of Arkansas. The site selected is the site of the present city of Fort Smith. As a military reservation, the United States Government bought there of Captain John Rogers a tract of 296 acres, "having a front of 100 yards on the south side of the Arkansas River, immediately below the Choctaw line"; which was to say, just east of the western boundary. The new fort was begun in July, 1838. The original plan provided for a quadrangle enclosure 450 by 600 feet, walled with stone, with barracks, officers' quarters, etc., inside the walls. By 1842, though the fort was incomplete, the Government had spent \$120,000. Nor was it ever completed, though it was occupied continually until 1871. The town grew up around the fort. Captain Rogers, founder of the town, laid off 160 acres of his land in town lots in 1837. He had built already a large warehouse there; was then engaged in all kinds of "storage, forwarding and commission business". And, by December, 1842, the place had grown sufficiently to induce the General Assembly to incorporate it as a town.

#### THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF LITTLE ROCK ESTABLISHED (1843).

The Diocese of Little Rock was fomed by the Catholic Church in 1843. It embraced the State of Arkansas and the Indian Territory, and on March 10, 1844, Rt. Rev. Andrew Byrne was consecrated bishop of the Diocese. He was born in Navan, Ireland, December 5, 1802. When about eighteen years of age he came with Bishop England to America and was ordained priest at Charleston, South Carolina, November 11, 1827. A few years later he was transferred to New York, where he became known as a preacher of great power. When he



came to Little Rock to take charge of his new diocese he brought with him Fathers Corry and Donohue, who were the only priests in the state for some time. Bishop Byrne died at Helena, Arkansas, on June 10, 1862. During the Civil War and until February 3, 1867, the diocese of Little Rock was without a bishop. Then the Rt. Rev. Edward Fitzgerald was consecrated. He arrived at Little Rock on March 17, 1867, and during the year visited the principal cities and towns of the state, traveling on horseback, by steamboat and stage. Probably the most noted event that occurred during his bishopric was the building of St. Andrew's Cathedral at Little Rock, the corner-stone of which was laid on July 7, 1878. It was dedicated on November 29, 1881.

#### THE FIRST PUBLIC LIBRARY (1843).

The first library in Little Rock, and the first in Arkansas of which any definite knowledge can be obtained, was established by William E. Woodruff in 1843. It was not a free library, but the books were intended for circulation among those who were willing to pay a small annual fee. Each book carried the following label: "Little Rock Circulating Library. Established by William E. Woodruff in the year 1843. Please read and return in two weeks. Price \$2 per year." Mr. Woodruff's library contained most of the best histories, ancient and modern; practically all of the standard novels, books of travel, biography, scientific works and a number of the leading poets. There was not much of what could be called "light reading", for the founder's taste did not run in that direction. He was fond of lyric and descriptive poetry and used to express his gratification that it was his privilege to set type on the first volume of Tom Moore's poems ever printed in America. Mr. Woodruff's library came to a somewhat tragic end. While the Federal troops were in possession of Little Rock the books were stored in the home of Alden Woodruff. A fire broke out in a building near by and the contents of Mr. Woodruff's house were carried into the street, preparatory to removal to a place of safety, in case it became necessary. Soldiers passing by helped themselves to books and in this way many of the most valuable were lost. So few remained that the library was never reopened.



WAR WITH MEXICO; THE RESPONSE OF ARKANSAS  
TO THE CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS (1846).

The annexation of Texas by the United States, effected by act of Congress approved March 1, 1845, was highly displeasing to the Mexican Government; which still entertained hope, in spite of the ten years since Texas had won its independence, of reconquering the country. Upon annexation General Zachary Taylor, in command of the military forces of the United States in the Southwest, was ordered to take possession of the country to the Rio Grande. Early in 1846 the Mexicans began mobilizing an army along the Rio Grande, across the river from General Taylor's army of occupation. The first conflict of arms occurred May 8, 1846, at Palo Alto. Thereupon the United States, by act of Congress, approved May 11, 1846, declared "war already exists by act of the Mexican Government". On the same day the President was authorized to call for 50,000 volunteers for the war. Arkansas was called to furnish one regiment of mounted men for service in Mexico, and one battalion to guard the western frontier of the state. The latter was made necessary because the regular garrisons in the western forts were ordered to Mexico. As soon as the requisition reached Gov. Thomas S. Drew, he issued his proclamation calling upon the able-bodied men of the State to enlist for such service and to rendezvous at Washington, the county seat of Hempstead county. Perhaps no other state in the Union had as great an incentive for entering the war as Arkansas. Next door to Texas, they were as "brothers of one family". Many of the Americans from the states east of the Mississippi, on their way to Texas, had passed through Arkansas, and some of them had lived for a while in the state before continuing their journey. For years the letters of Stephen F. Austin, giving an account of the progress of his colony, had appeared in the newspapers and had been read with intense interest by the people of the state. From 1835 until the declaration of war in 1846, the Arkansas newspapers had constantly published news of the Texas revolution and had openly expressed sympathy with the struggle the Americans there were making for independence. This expression of sympathy found an echo in the hearts of the Arkansans. It awakened public



sentiment in favor of the revolutionists and stirred up the fighting spirit. The leaders of the revolution were well known and popular in Arkansas. When General Sam Houston, after the inhuman massacre at the Alamo, called upon the people of the United States for assistance, a large number of young men from Arkansas had rallied to the standard of the "Lone Star Republic". Then, too, the people of Arkansas were firm in the belief that for ten years or more Mexican influences had been actively exerted among the Indians to incite them to make war upon the settlements of the western frontier. The call for volunteers gave them an opportunity to settle old scores, and the prompt response of the Arkansans evinced an ardent desire on the part of the people of the state that the settlement be both summary and final.

#### ARKANSAS AT THE BATTLE OF BUENA VISTA (1847).

When war was declared with Mexico Colonel Archibald Yell, then a member of Congress, immediately resigned his seat and returned to Arkansas, where he enlisted as a private in the Arkansas regiment of Mounted Volunteers. At Washington, Arkansas, where the organization of the regiment was perfected, he was elected colonel. From Washington the Arkansas troops marched overland to Mexico, where they were attached to General Wood's division of General Taylor's army. While in Monclova, General Wood detached Companies E and K, and organized them into a squadron commanded by Captain Albert Pike. To this squadron fell the honor of bringing on the battle of Buena Vista, February 23, 1847, the only action of consequence in which the Arkansas troops were engaged. Concerning the conduct of the Arkansas regiment on that occasion, and the death of Colonel Yell, a contemporary and competent authority afterwards wrote: "With the exception of Pike's and Preston's companies, the Arkansas regiment had not been thoroughly drilled. It showed a woeful lack of discipline, and at the battle the companies completely 'lost their heads'. Colonel Yell, seeing the disordered state of the command, hastily gathered about him some thirty or forty of his bravest, dashed impetuously with them into the thickest of the fight, and needlessly, nay, reck-



lessly, threw away his life in an attempt to save the honor of his state and his own name. Never fell a braver son of an ungrateful state. After nearly fifty years no testimonial erected by the state, tells of his name and fame. The Americans were outnumbered at Buena Vista four to one, yet against these great odds they achieved one of the most signal victories of the war. That the Arkansas troops did their part to make the history of that battle what it is the proof is ample. In the presence of a superior force, it is not surprising that raw, undisciplined troops should show signs of panic at the beginning of the engagement. But when the smoke of battle cleared away the Mexicans were in full flight with the Americans in hot pursuit. Numerous stories of individual bravery during the battle of Buena Vista have been told, one of which will bear repeating here. Joshua M. Danley, a youth of twenty years, was a private in Company B, commanded by his brother, Capt. Christopher C. Danley. Early in the battle a Mexican lancer charged young Danley and inflicted a slight wound in his arm. "Josh" grasped the lance near the head and in the struggle that followed both combatants were unhorsed. In the fall from the horse the Mexican released his hold upon the lance. Danley seized it and ran his enemy through the body with his own weapon. He brought the lance home with him as a trophy.

**TREATY OF GUADALUPE; AMRBOSE H. SEVIER, ONE OF THE  
PEACE COMMISSIONERS (1848).**

In the spring of 1847 President James K. Polk sent Nicholas P. Trist to Gen. Winfield Scott's headquarters for the purpose of entering into negotiations with the Mexican Government for the restoration of peace. He carried with him a treaty which had been prepared by the cabinet, though his secret instructions authorized him to make certain changes if it became necessary. One thing, however, he was to insist upon, and that was the cession of New Mexico and California, for which he was authorized to pay Mexico \$25,000,000, unless he could obtain the cession on better terms. On August 24, 1847, an armistice was arranged and the Mexican Government appointed four commissioners to meet Mr. Trist. The Mexican commissioners refused to entertain Trist's propositions and



asked time to formulate other terms. Trist continued his negotiations, and on February 2, 1848, succeeded in concluding the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo (a small place on the outskirts of the City of Mexico), which embodied essentially all the features desired by the President. The territory now comprising the states of Arizona, California, New Mexico, Nevada and Utah, the western part of Colorado and the southwestern part of Wyoming, was ceded to the United States for \$15,000,000. The United States also agreed to assume the payment of claims held by her citizens against Mexico, provided the total amount of such claims did not exceed \$3,250,000. The treaty was forwarded to Washington, where, on account of certain misunderstandings between Polk and Trist, the sentiment was divided as to its acceptance. The treaty was, however, finally accepted and sent to the Senate, where it was promptly ratified. The Mexican Government, still hoping perhaps to secure better terms, delayed the ratification of the treaty. Polk then appointed Nathan Clifford and Senator Ambrose H. Sevier, of Arkansas, commissioners to consult with Mexican commissioners and secure the ratification of the treaty. Clifford and Sevier met the Mexican commissioners at Queretaro and succeeded in accomplishing their mission. By this treaty more than half a million square miles were added to the territory of the United States. And in the acquisition of this territory, Arkansas had played, in more ways than one, a conspicuous part.

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE FOUNDED BY  
MASONIC FRATERNITY (1848).

In 1848, Elber H. English, for many years grand master of the Arkansas Masonic Grand Lodge and afterward chief justice of the Supreme Court, conceived the idea of a college to be conducted under the auspices of the Masonic fraternity. Through donations from the grand and subordinate lodges and friendly individuals, enough money was obtained to purchase a tract of 105 acres of land in the suburbs of Little Rock. On Dec. 31, 1850, the institution was incorporated under the name of St. John's College. The work of erecting a building was not commenced until 1857, which was ready for occupancy



in the fall of 1859. A military academy was then opened with John B. Thompson, of Richmond, Virginia, president; J. F. Bronaugh, also a Virginian, vice president; and John B. Lewis, drill master. During the first year the attendance was good and the college started its career with excellent prospects. Then the war came and its doors were closed. Thompson, Bronaugh and Lewis all entered the Confederate army and the cadets were organized into a company called the "Capital Guards", commanded by Gordon N. Peay. Thompson was killed at Shiloh, Bronaugh fell during the siege of Petersburg, and Lewis was the only one of the original instructors to survive the war. The buildings were used for hospital purposes, first by the Confederates and later by Federal troops. In 1868 or 1869 the college was reorganized with Oliver C. Gray as president. Associated with Gray were W. C. Parham and Theodore Jobe as instructors. When Gov. Elisha Baxter was ousted from the state house in the spring of 1874, he established his headquarters at St. John's College, the cadets acting as his bodyguard. The Brooks-Baxter war caused the institution to cease activity for a time. After the gubernatorial dispute was settled it reopened with Rev. A. R. Winfield as president. The establishment of public schools, the troubles encountered during the war, caused a decline in patronage and the grand lodge after a few years discontinued the school and ordered the sale of the property. With the proceeds of the sale the Masonic Temple on the corner of Fifth and Main streets was erected, where stands now the Exchange National Bank Building. Where the college once stood is now one of the residence districts of the City of Little Rock.

**ARKANSAS GRAND LODGE, INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD  
FELLOWS ORGANIZED (1849).**

Following the organization of the first lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Little Rock in 1839 there were but three other lodges formed during the next ten years: Telula Lodge, No. 2, at Helena; Frontier Lodge, No. 3., at Fort Smith; Independence Lodge, No. 4, at Batesville. And on June 11, 1849, representatives of these four lodges met in Little Rock, where they organized the Grand Lodge of Arkan-



sas. The order had then, in Arkansas, a total membership of 144. There are now nearly six hundred lodges in the state, with a membership of more than thirty thousand.

THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT BEGUN; A BLOCK OF MARBLE  
FOR THE MONUMENT QUARRIED IN ARKANSAS (1849).

A popular movement to erect a suitable monument to the memory of George Washington was started in 1833. The movement was organized under the name of the "Washington National Monument Society", with headquarters at Washington City. The Arkansas Gazette of October 27, 1835, said: "The subscription to this object is limited to the sum of one dollar for each individual subscribing. It will be seen by the following notice that collectors of contributions are wanted for Arkansas and several other states and territories. We hope that Arkansans will not be backward in contributing their mite to this noble object: they owe as much to the memory of Washington as any other portion of the American people." Work was actually begun on the monument in 1848. The Arkansas State Democrat, in its issue of September 28, 1849, said: "We are advised that the citizens of the western portion of our State have succeeded in obtaining a block of marble, of the requisite size, from the Carroll county quarries, and that it has reached Van Buren, from which point it will be shipped, via New Orleans, to Washington City. Senator Borland has promised to procure the arms of our state engraved upon this block when it arrives at its destination. Our citizens up the creek have shown a very laudable zeal in this matter for which they deserve the highest commendation. Whilst in some other states large appropriations have been made by the legislatures, for a similar purpose, the people of our western counties have made up a purse and sent off a block on their own hook. This monument and the marble are samples of the public spirit and productions of the state, of which every citizen will be proud. We learn that it is the intention of the citizens of this county to send along with the marble a block from the granite quarries near this city. Those persons who may be disposed to aid in this object will find a subscription list at our office." Work on the monument was abandoned in 1857.



In 1877, with funds appropriated by Congress, the work was resumed. The monument was completed in 1884.

THE FIRST RAILROAD COMPANY IN ARKANSAS  
INCORPORATED (1853).

The Arkansas Central Railroad Company, incorporated by act of the General Assembly, which act was approved January 10, 1853, was formed for the purpose of building a railroad from Memphis to Little Rock. Of the history of the project of a railroad from Memphis to Little Rock, The Arkansas Gazette of March 3, 1853, published the following account, copied from a Memphis paper of an early date: "From 1845, up to the present time, the idea of a great central trunk line railroad, commencing opposite this city and running westwardly through Arkansas to her western boundary, has been a prominent and favored one in the public mind. Gen. Edmund P. Gaines foreshadowed the project of the Pacific Railroad over that route in his address to the convention which assembled here in that year, and was presided over by Mr. Calhoun. That convention, in which Arkansas was well represented, warmly favored the project.

"Again, in the Pacific Railroad Convention which assembled here in October of 1849, and in which the State of Arkansas was most fully and ably represented by eighty-two of her most talented and distinguished citizens, \* \* \* the same route for a road was emphatically endorsed. The resolution which passed the convention in reference to the location of the Pacific Railroad left the terminus on the Mississippi at 'some point between the mouth of the Ohio and the mouth of Red River', but the Arkansas delegation in mass, together with the delegations from Mississippi, South Carolina, Alabama, Tennessee and Virginia, voted unsuccessfully for a substitute which designated the eastern terminus of this road '*at Memphis* on the Mississippi River'. This convention recommended the donation of lands by the general government, in aid of this great road, as well as of its prolongation to the Atlantic at Charleston.

"Again, in 1852, two successive State conventions were held at Little Rock, in Arkansas, both of which recommended,



distinctly and emphatically, this east and west *central route*, and asked for donations of land—the Legislature, also, granting a liberal charter.

“In short, through a series of years, the project of a great central road from opposite this city, westwardly through Arkansas, to her western frontier, has been a fixed and favorite idea, not only with the people of Arkansas, who have time and again endorsed and urged it, and in all sorts of ways have given their countenance to it, as their first and most cherished project; but with the people of a large majority of all the Southern States. It was as notoriously desirable by everybody, and everywhere, as any project which has ever been discussed before the public. It was notoriously the favorite and desirable project of Arkansas. As proof of this, we need only point to the charter granted by the last Legislature of that State and the inducements therein held out to capitalists. \* \* \* \* ”

Covering the construction of the road, *The True Democrat*, of Little Rock, in its issue of Dec. 15, 1857, said: “The road has already been partly completed and is entitled to the glorious eulogy of being the first to start the ‘iron horse on the soil of Arkansas’”. The road, which the editor referred to as completed, included, it seems, but a few miles of track from opposite Memphis to Hopefield. The road was completed to Madison, on St. Francis River, early in 1858. As stated in another topic, trains began running over that part of the road between DeVall’s Bluff and Little Rock in February, 1862. On account of the war, the section between Madison and DeVall’s Bluff was not completed until nearly ten years later. By the act of July 31, 1868, the company was entitled to state aid, in the form of bonds at the rate of \$10,000 per mile, or a total of \$1,200,000. With this encouragement the gap was closed, the last spike being driven on April 11, 1871. *The Arkansas Gazette*, in giving an account of the event said: “We are now bound to the Bluff City—when the water gets out of the way.”



PUBLIC LANDS GRANTED THE CAIRO AND FULTON  
RAILROAD COMPANY (1853).

The President of the United States, Franklin Pierce, approved February 9, 1853, an act of Congress making a grant of land to the States of Missouri and Arkansas "to aid in the construction of a railroad from a point upon the Mississippi River opposite the mouth of the Ohio River, via Little Rock, to the Texas boundary, near Fulton, in Arkansas, with branches to Fort Smith and the Mississippi River". The Company for whose benefit this grant was made had only been incorporated on January 12, 1853, by the General Assembly of Arkansas, as the Cairo and Fulton Railroad Company. Under the act of Congress, of February 9, the company received six sections (3,840 acres) per mile. The promoters of the enterprise soon discovered that it was much easier to build a railroad on paper than it was with the pick and shovel. Four years passed after the passage of the land grant act, the provisions of which required a certain amount of work to be done within a specified time, in which nothing was done in this matter of actual construction. The panic of 1857 put a stop to public work all over the country and railroad construction was for a time suspended. In December, 1857, the president of the Cairo & Fulton called for the payment of an installment on stock subscriptions "sufficient to grade twenty-five miles, extending from the White River northward, to protect the land grant". With this work completed it was decided to wait until business conditions improved before continuing construction. In 1858 offices were established in Little Rock, with Mason Brayman as president; W. W. Everett, secretary; James S. Williams, chief engineer. The unsettled financial conditions of the country still prevented the effectual prosecution of the work. Instead of improving, conditions grew worse until 1861, when the country became involved in civil war. Brayman and Williams were both graduates of West Point. The former returned North, entered the army and became a brigadier-general. Williams entered the Confederate army as a colonel, but after the war Brayman returned to Little Rock to resume his place as president of the Cairo & Fulton Railroad Company. By an act of July 28,



1866, the land grant was revived and increased to ten sections per mile, making a total of 1,945,600 acres. In March, 1868, the interests of the State of Missouri in the St. Louis & Iron Mountain Railroad were sold to Thomas Allen, who interested some Eastern capitalists and the line was finished to the Arkansas state line. A consolidation was then effected with the Cairo & Fulton company, under the name of the St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern, and work was commenced on the "Arkansas extension". Under an act of the General Assembly of Arkansas, approved July 31, 1868, state aid in the form of bonds to the amount of \$3,000,000 was awarded to the Cairo & Fulton Railroad Company. Meanwhile, the land grant was growing steadily more valuable and the company had now sufficient working capital, so that the offer of State aid was declined. By the fall of 1872 the road was in operation as far south as Arkadelphia. In January, 1874, trains began running between St. Louis and Texarkana. This road now forms part of the Missouri Pacific system.

#### THE FIRST GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF ARKANSAS (1857).

The first geological survey of Arkansas was made by Dr. David Owen in 1857-58. A report of this survey, or "reconnaissance" as it was called, was published at Little Rock in 1858. In February, 1859, the General Assembly made an appropriation to continue the work. Doctor Owen was reappointed, but died on November 3, 1860. His second report, edited by his brother, Richard Owen, and his assistant, Edward T. Cox, was published at Philadelphia about a year after his death.

#### THE FIRST COTTON FACTORY ESTABLISHED (1857).

A factory for the production of cotton and woollen goods was established in 1857 at Royston, Pike county, by the Arkansas Manufacturing Company. The principal promoters of the enterprise were Henry Merrill, a Georgian, and John Matlock, of Camden, Arkansas. It turned out yarn and thread until 1863, when it was removed to Texas by order of the Confederate Government. After the war the plant was brought back to Royston. After Mr. Matlock's death the



machinery was purchased by the Arkadelphia Manufacturing Company and taken to that city, where a factory was opened on a larger scale. W. W. Bell, the first superintendent of the Royston mills, also established woolen mills at Camden and Nashville. None of these factories is now in existence.

#### THE STATE SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND FOUNDED (1859).

Next to the penitentiary, established in 1838, the School for the Blind is the oldest of the State's institutions. The first effort made to provide for the education of the blind in Arkansas was in 1850, when Rev. James Champlain, a blind Methodist minister, opened such a school at Clarksville in Johnson county. His pupils numbered only five, and failing to receive the support and encouragement he anticipated, the school was closed after about five months. In 1858, a Mr. Haucke, a blind Baptist preacher, visited Arkadelphia, where he interested a number of the charitably inclined citizens of the community in a movement to establish a school for the blind. In October of that year an association was formed for the purpose, and the name of "The Arkansas Institute for the Education of the Blind" was adopted. The school was opened in February, 1859, with Mr. Haucke in charge and seven pupils in attendance. On February 4, 1859, the institution was incorporated and Governor Elias N. Conway appointed the following board of trustees: T. E. Garrett, Harris Flanagan, T. A. Heard, J. B. McDaniel, J. W. Smith, H. B. Stewart, S. Stephenson, W. A. Trigg and J. L. Witherspoon. Mr Haucke resigned his position in the summer of 1859 and Otis Patten was elected as his successor. Mr. Patten and Isaac Lawrence spent some time in traveling over the state, trying to induce the parents of blind children to send them to school. Through their efforts the attendance increased and the institution prospered until the fall of 1863, when, owing to conditions growing out of the Civil War, it was closed. The General Assembly of 1866-67 appropriated \$8,000 for buildings, \$1,200 for salary of a superintendent, and \$200 a year for the support of each pupil. With this encouragement the school was reopened in March 1867. On July 22, 1868, Governor Powell Clayton approved an act for the removal



of the school to Little Rock. It was closed at Arkadelphia about the middle of September and opened at Little Rock in the second week of October, in "Rose Cottage", with Liberty Bartlett, R. L. Dodge, and C. C. Farrelly as trustees. A tract of about eight acres, in the southern part of the city, was purchased, a brick building and several temporary frame buildings were erected, and the institution was removed to its present location in 1869. By an act of March 15, 1879, the name was changed to the "Arkansas School for the Blind". In 1885 the Legislature appropriated \$60,000 for additional buildings. The first brick structure was then converted into a workshop, where the boys were taught broom and brush making, mattress making, chair caning, etc. The girls were taught sewing, both by hand and machine, bead work and some other occupations.

#### THE STREETS OF LITTLE ROCK LIGHTED FIRST BY GAS (1860).

A franchise was granted by the City of Little Rock, April 5, 1860, to the "Little Rock Gas Company". The "True Democrat", in its issue of May 5, 1860, contained the following announcement: "The gas house is now nearly completed. The contractors, the Messrs. Slaughter, have more than complied with all the stipulations of their contract. We understand that the street pipes and other gas fixtures are now here. We may confidently look for the works to be in full blast by the first of August, at which time our streets are to be lighted. We think the contractors entitled to much credit for the prompt, efficient and very satisfactory manner in which they have complied with their contract." The gas works then, where the artificial gas was manufactured, were situated at the foot of Cumberland street. In those days, when the streets of Little Rock first began to be lighted by gas, Richard Wilson and Benjamin Pate—commonly called Dick and Ben—were the city lamplighters. As they went their rounds in the evening, it is said that each carried a small ladder and a lantern, both which they used in lighting the street lights. In the morning they made their rounds without the lantern and turned off the gas. They were often accompanied



by a crowd of small boys, who insisted upon lightening their labors by carrying the lantern and ladder.

#### THE FIRST TELEGRAPH LINE IN ARKANSAS (1860).

The True Democrat, of Little Rock, in its issue of March 21, 1860, said: "The operations of the electric telegraph are the wonder and admiration of the world. \* \* \* At the South and Southwest, there are several lines in every State, except Arkansas, and companies for new lines constantly organizing \* \* \* In our city, the subject of a line has been the topic of discourse for the last three years and now is a favorable opportunity to act in the matter. Mr. W. D. Snow, of the firm of Snow, Ketchum & Co., is on a visit among us. They have long been engaged in the business, and constructed several thousand miles. They are well indorsed by letters to several of our citizens, and will join them in taking the necessary stock for a line to Memphis and lease the line for a term of years if desired and establish branches at once to the thriving localities of the State." The editor of the same paper, quoting Mr. Snow, said, March 24, 1860: "In the short space of sixteen years, the invention, in connection with the House & Bain instruments, has spread until now there is in operation on this continent between 70,000 and 80,000 miles, or nearly 240 per cent more than there are miles of railroad, the aggregate receipts of which, already, in 1858, exceeded the entire revenue of the post office department, on a total number of messages bearing a proportion of 15 per cent to all the letters despatched through the mails." Just one week later the editor printed the following announcement: "As soon as the stock of the telegraph line from our city to Memphis is subscribed, we learn that Mr. Snow will visit all thriving localities of the State and enlist interest in branch lines centering at Little Rock. Of the routes named, a line to Batesville, to Helena, to Pine Bluff and Napoleon, to Camden, to Clarksville, and Paris, Texas, and thence to Galveston. In addition to Fort Smith and Van Buren having taken stock and secured offices in the Missouri line, we learn from a gentleman from Fayetteville, Washington county, that the citizens of the latter place have promptly taken the necessary stock



for an office in that place, on the Missouri line. In the month of June these three localities will be in lightning communication with "the rest of mankind".

#### HOW ARKANSAS SECEDED FROM THE UNION (1861).

Governor Henry M. Rector approved, January 15, 1861, an act of the General Assembly which provided "That the governor shall issue his proclamation, ordering an election in all the counties of this state, submitting to the people the question of 'Convention' or 'No Convention', to be held on the 18th day of February, 1861, \* \* \* " The act further provided that, in the event the people voted a convention, upon its organization the said convention "shall take into consideration the condition of political affairs, and determine what course the State of Arkansas shall take in the present political crisis." Accordingly, Governor Rector, on January 16, ordered the election held as directed by the act which he had approved the day before. In the first days of February, it was rumored in Little Rock that the steamboat "S. H. Tucker" was coming up the Arkansas with three or four hundred regular troops of the United States on board, in order to reinforce the troop of artillery stationed at the arsenal, under the command of Captain James Totten. Hundreds of citizens armed themselves and hurried to Little Rock for the avowed purpose of taking forcible possession of the post. At the request of the city council, and a public meeting of citizens, Governor Rector was induced to demand the surrender of the arsenal and its supplies. Captain Totten and his men evacuated the post with the honors of war on February 8, 1861. These events, doubtless, had a decided effect upon the election of February 18, in which the proposition for a convention carried by a majority of 11,586 votes. The convention met on Monday, March 4, and continued in session until March 21. Though several ordinances of secession were proposed, all were defeated, and the convention adjourned to meet again on August 19, after the people had voted, August 5, on the question of secession. However, the president of the convention was authorized to call the delegates together "at any time between this and the 19th day of August, A. D., 1861, if in his opinion an exigency should arise". The fall of Fort Sumter,



April 14, 1861; the call of President Lincoln for volunteers to suppress secession; an order for the dispatch of a thousand regulars of the United States army to Fort Smith, afforded the "exigency" which prompted David Walker, of Fayetteville, president of the convention, to assemble the delegates in a second session on May 6, 1861. And on the afternoon of the first day of this extraordinary session (May 6) an ordinance of secession was passed by a vote of sixty-five to five. As soon as the president announced the vote, four of those who had voted in the negative changed their votes to the affirmative, leaving Isaac Murphy, afterwards governor, the only delegate who went on record as opposed to secession. On May 10. the convention passed an ordinance adopting the provisional constitution of the Confederate States, as framed and adopted at Montgomery, Alabama, February 4, 1861.

#### ARKANSAS ADMITTED TO THE UNION OF THE CONFEDERACY (1861).

The Arkansas secession convention elected, May 10, 1861, Augustus H. Garland, Robert W. Johnson, Hugh F. Thomason, Albert Rust and W. W. Watkins delegates to represent the State of Arkansas in the Confederate Congress. These delegates were formally seated as members of the Congress at Montgomery on May 18, 1861.

#### BATTLE OF OAK HILL—FIRST ARKANSAS SOLDIERS OF THE WAR OF SECESSION ENGAGED IN BATTLE (1861).

The battle of Oak Hill, called by the Union forces the battle of Wilson's Creek, was fought in southwestern Missouri, near Springfield, August 10, 1861. There soldiers enlisted from Arkansas for the War of Secession were engaged for the first time in battle. The Confederates, of which there were some six thousand, were commanded by General Benjamin McCulloch. They were attacked by a Federal force of eight or, as some say, ten thousand men led by General Nathaniel Lyon. The Arkansas troops included the regiments commanded by Colonels Thomas J. Churchill, De Rosey Carroll, Thomas P. Dockery, James McIntosh, and William E. Woodruff's battery—the whole forming a brigade, of which General N. B.



Pearce had command. It was General Lyon's intention to surprise the Confederate camp, but the approach of the Federals was discovered by Capt. Lee M. Ramsaur, of Churchill's regiment, in time to give the alarm. Before the Confederates were fairly in battle formation they were thrown into some confusion, but General Lyon failed to press his advantage, giving them time to rally. The battle began about seven o'clock in the morning and lasted until one o'clock in this action the Arkansans lost 91 killed, 317 wounded and 4 missing, supposed to have been captured. The Federal loss was heavy, General Lyon being among the killed.

**BATTLE OF ELKHORN, OR PEA RIDGE—FIRST ENGAGEMENT OF THE WAR OF SECESSION FOUGHT ON ARKANSAS SOIL (1862).**

The battle of Elkhorn, or Pea Ridge, was fought March 6, 1862. It was the first engagement of the war fought in the State of Arkansas. The Confederates commanded by Generals Stirling Price and Benjamin McCulloch attacked General Franz Sigel at Bentonville and forced him to fall back to the main body of Federals on Pea Ridge, under the command of General Samuel R. Curtis. Pea Ridge is a plateau about ten miles long by five miles wide in the northern part of Benton County. Curtis' force numbered 20,000 men, while the Confederates, commanded by General Earl Van Dorn, numbered only 15,000. Notwithstanding the odds against him, Van Dorn attacked the Federal position on the 7th of March, and after an engagement which lasted several hours, forced Curtis to give way. During the night Curtis moved to a stronger position and on the 8th of March Van Dorn retreated southward, instead of holding the field and awaiting a Federal attack. Some skirmishing occurred between his rear guard and the Federals. The Confederate loss at Pea Ridge was given at 185 killed, 525 wounded and 300 missing. Curtis' loss was reported as 402 killed, 800 wounded and 300 captured. Generals McIntosh and McCulloch of the Confederates were both killed in this battle, a battle without permanent advantage to either side.



**THE ARKANSAS STATE TROOPS TRANSFERRED TO THE  
CONFEDERATE SERVICE (1862).**

The Arkansas secession convention, in May, 1861, created a military board with power to arm and equip such troops as might be deemed necessary for the defense of the State against invasion. This board was composed of Governor Henry M. Rector, Christopher C. Danley, of Little Rock, and Benjamin C. Totten, of Prairie County. Mr Danley soon afterward was succeeded by Samuel W. Williams, and when the latter entered the army he was succeeded by L. D. Hill, of Perry county. This board issued a call for 10,000 volunteers and in a little while companies began to report from all parts of the state. N. B. Pearce, formerly an officer in the United States army, and James Yell were appointed Brigadier-Generals by the convention to organize the men into regiments and brigades. The First regiment of state troops was commanded by Col. Patrick R. Cleburne; the Second, by Col. James McIntosh; the Third, by Col. John R. Gratiot; the Fourth, by Col. J. D. Walker; the Fifth, by Col. Thomas P. Dockery. There were also a "Southwest Arkansas Regiment", commanded by Col. Evander McNair, and a cavalry regiment (the Third), commanded by Col. De Rosey Carroll. These troops rendezvoused at Pocahontas, Randolph county, Gratiot's and Walker's regiments were disbanded after the battle of Oak Hill. Early in September, 1861, Gen. Wm. J. Hardee, of Georgia, came to Arkansas as the representative of the Confederate Government, to arrange for the transfer of all Arkansas troops to the Confederate service. Every man was permitted to decide the question for himself and those that objected to being transferred were mustered out of service. This resulted in the disbanding of Dockery's and Carroll's regiments, many of the men enlisting in other commands. The transfer was formally effected June 2, 1862, by the proclamation of Governor Rector.

**THE FIRST RAILROAD TRAINS TO AND OUT OF  
LITTLE ROCK (1862).**

The Memphis and Little Rock Railroad Company announced, February 20, 1862, that on and from that day the company would run a train daily, both ways, between Little



Rock and Devall's Bluff. The announcement, which appeared in the True Democrat of February 20, said also: "Hanger, Rapley & Gaines are running the new sidewheel steamer 'Charm' between DeVall's Bluff and Clarendon, in connection with their double daily line of stages from Clarendon to Madison, making the trip comfortable and pleasant and twenty-four hours shorter than by any other route. A regular line of packets from Memphis connects with the road at DeVall's Bluff, offering excellent facilities for the shipment of freights at all seasons and without the risk and delay attending the navigation of the Arkansas River. Cars leave Little Rock every day at 8 o'clock A. M. and (passengers from Little Rock) arrive at Memphis next day at 4 o'clock P. M. Returning, leave Memphis at 7:30 o'clock A. M., arrive at Little Rock at 4:30 P. M. Tickets can be procured of J. L. Palmer, Anthony House, Little Rock, and at the ticket office of the Memphis & Charleston Railroad at Memphis."

#### THE STATE CAPITOL REMOVED TO HOT SPRINGS (1862).

In the spring of 1862 the Federal army commanded by Gen. Samuel R. Curtis invaded Northern Arkansas and marched toward Little Rock. Without waiting for authority from the Legislature, Gov. Henry M. Rector, on May 6, 1862, wrote to Edmund Burgevin, adjutant-general of the State, as follows: "Sir: In my absence from the capital, you are authorized and empowered to raise volunteers, swear them into service as provided in my proclamation of the 5th inst., and to operate against the approaching Federal army to the best advantage, so as to impede their progress towards the capital and south of it, if they should continue their march onward after reaching this point. You are authorized to call upon Col. S. Faulkner, C. S. Military storekeeper, for any ammunition on hand belonging to the Confederate Government, and charge the same to the State of Arkansas. You are further authorized to call upon the State quartermaster at this place for subsistence, transportation, etc., necessary for such men as you may swear into service as provided by said proclamation." Immediately after giving these instructions to the adjutant-general, the governor, secretary of state and state treasurer packed up the most important state records, funds,



etc., and went to Hot Springs, where temporary quarters were established. Many people deemed this action on the part of the governor unnecessary. The "True Democrat" in its issue of May 22, 1862, said: "We would be glad if some patriotic gentleman would relieve the anxiety of the public by informing it of the locality of the state government. The last that was heard of it here, it was aboard of the steamer 'Little Rock' about two weeks ago, stemming the current of the Arkansas River." The same paper in its issue of July 3, 1862, said: "Under the title 'Where is the Seat of Government?' a writer in the 'Gazette' of last week shows that the seat of government is at Little Rock. Indeed, in the absence of any official notification of removal or change of location it cannot be otherwise. If part of the state government is rustivating, we suppose there is some reason for it, but it is decidedly inconvenient to those who have business to transact with the state." Toward the latter part of July the scare was over and Governor Rector returned to Little Rock. On November 29, 1862, Governor Flanagin approved an act providing: "That the sum of sixty-eight dollars be and the same is hereby appropriated, out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated, to pay John I. Stirman, late secretary of state, for moneys expended in consequence of the removal of the seat of government from Little Rock to Hot Springs during the summer of 1862."

#### THE BATTLE OF PRAIRIE GROVE (1862).

Prairie Grove, from which the battle there on December 7, 1862, took its name, is situated in Washington County, some ten miles south of Fayetteville. The battle of Prairie Grove was fought by Union troops under the command of Generals James G. Blunt and Francis J. Herron and an army of Confederates commanded by Generals Thomas C. Hindman and James F. Fagan. The battle was begun by General Hindman, who made an attack just before noon on the position of General Herron. The fighting continued throughout the afternoon. General Fagan's brigade of four regiments, who held the right of the Confederate line, gallantly repelled several vigorous charges of the Federals. General Herron was reinforced, about an hour before sunset, by General Blunt,



which brought the strength of the Federals up to 16,000 men. Charles W. Walker, in describing the battle, says: "During the night of the 7th both armies were retreating. The Federals began moving their trains to Fayetteville early in the night. The Confederates began their retreat about midnight. The victory of the Confederates, though complete, were fruitless, barren of good results to the South. \* \* \* According to General Hindman's report, "our loss in killed was 164, wounded 817, missing 336; Federal loss, 400 dead on the field, 1,500 wounded, number of prisoners in our hands 275, including 9 officers." Blunt and Herron reported a loss of 175 killed, 813 wounded and 263 missing. The Confederates also captured 500 stand of small arms, 23 wagons laden with supplies, and five flags. Hindman explained his retreat on the grounds that his "supply of ammunition was reduced far below what would be necessary for another day's fighting, and that my battery animals were literally dying of starvation".

#### THE CAPTURE OF ARKANSAS POST (1863).

Arkansas Post, in January, 1863, was defended by a force of 3,000 Confederates commanded by Gen. Thomas J. Churchill. On the morning of January 8th, his pickets reported a fleet of gunboats and transports coming up the Arkansas River. The next day some 20,000 Federal troops, commanded by Gen. John A. McClernand, were landed and preparations were commenced for attacking the post. Churchill placed the works in condition to receive an assault, which came in the afternoon of January 9, and which was repulsed. Later, on the same day, the gunboats, commanded by Admiral David D. Porter, opened fire and succeeded in inflicting some damage upon the defenses. About noon on January 10, a general assault was made, but the Federals were again repulsed with heavy losses. On the 11th of January, 1863, General Churchill surrendered the post. He was taken a prisoner to Camp Chase, Ohio, where he was held three months as a prisoner of war. When exchanged he was assigned to the Trans-Mississippi Department. The minor officers and privates, who had surrendered at Arkansas Post, were afterwards paroled.



**BATTLE OF HELENA (1863).**

A Confederate force of 7,640 men, commanded by General Theophilus H. Holmes, made an attack upon General Samuel R. Curtis, in command of the Federal garrison at Helena, on July 4, 1863. The first attack was made at an early hour in the morning, and the fighting continued until noon. In their first assault, the Confederates captured some of the outer works of the Federal fortifications; which Federals, rallied presently by General Curtis, recaptured and reinforced. The attack on Helena by General Holmes was declared by critics to have been an error, since the place was strongly fortified and garrisoned by a force superior in numbers to the attacking army. The Confederates lost 152 killed, 291 wounded and 406 missing. From Helena General Holmes retired to Searcy, where he remained in camp a short time, when he returned to Little Rock; whence he had set out originally for the purpose of attacking Helena.

**THE LAST DUEL FOUGHT IN ARKANSAS (1863).**

On August 27, 1863, while the Confederate army was falling back toward Little Rock, an engagement took place at Reed's Bridge over the Bayou Meto. Gen. L. M. Walker was in command of the Confederate forces thus engaged, with Gen. John S. Marmaduke in command of a division under him. After the battle, Marmaduke criticized Walker for his management of the troops. When Walker heard of this he demanded an apology, which was not forthcoming, and he then challenged Marmaduke to a duel. They met the next day a few miles from Little Rock and fought with pistols. Walker was severely wounded and was taken to Little Rock, where he died the next day. This was the last duel in Arkansas.

**CAPTURE OF LITTLE ROCK (1863).**

The fall of Little Rock into the hands of the Federals occurred on September 10, 1863. General Frederick Steel marched out of Helena August 8, under orders from General Samuel R. Curtis, with an army for the purpose of effecting its capture. The principal skirmish incident to this movement on the part of the Federals were as follows: West



Point, August 14th; Harrison's Landing, August 16th; Grand Prairie, August 17th; Brownsville, August 25th; Reeds' Bridge, August 27th; Shallow Ford, August 30th; Ashley's Mills, September 7th. The Confederates made their last stand on September 10, at Fourche Bayou, four miles from Little Rock. A line of battle had been formed there to receive the invaders, and when they approached a brilliant dash by the Confederates checked the Federal advance and captured four pieces of artillery. About nine miles below the city, Steel had ordered Gen. J. W. Davidson to cross the river and attack the works of the Confederates there in the rear with his cavalry division, while the main body of the Federal army moved up the north bank. While exulting over their temporary victory in the capture of the artillery, the Confederates learned of the attack by Davidson on the south side of the river. Whereupon, they abandoned their position on Fourche Bayou and crossed the river to repel the attack of General Davidson. When General Steele reached the Confederate trenches he found them deserted and hurried forward to the bank of the river opposite the city. There batteries were planted and a few shots fired, when it was learned that General Stirling Price, who had succeeded General Theophilus H. Holmes in command of the Confederates, had ordered a retreat. The last of the Confederates left the city about 5 p. m. on September 10, 1863, and from that time until 2 a. m. of September 11, Steele's victorious army was moving in. The occupation of Little Rock placed all that part of the state north of the Arkansas River in the hands of the Federals.

#### THE STATE CAPITOL REMOVED TO WASHINGTON, HEMPSTEAD COUNTY (1863).

A resolution adopted by the Legislature and approved by Governor Harris Flanagin November 27, 1862, provided: "That the governor be and he is hereby invested with authority to move the seat of government, and all property of a moveable character belonging thereto, to a place of safety, not beyond the limits of the state, when, in his judgement, it shall be deemed expedient." At the same time the judges of the Supreme Court and the Court of Chancery were directed to remove "the library and all books and papers belonging to said courts



to the said temporary seat of government; and by giving notice in two or more of the public newspapers of the state, of the time and place of said removal, proceed to hold said courts as is otherwise provided by law: Provided, that it shall be the duty of the governor to return the seat of government and property, and of the judges to return the library, books and papers to Little Rock, when the cause of removal ceases to exist." Early in September, 1863, when it became apparent that General Frederick Steele's intention was to occupy Little Rock with his army, Governor Flanagin, under the authority conferred upon him by the said resolution, issued his proclamation directing the removal of the seat of government to Washington, Hempstead County. A session of the Legislature was convened there in September, 1864, and Washington continued to be Governor Flanagin's capital until the spring of 1865, when his administration was brought to an end by the fortunes of war. Since that time the seat of government has remained at Little Rock without interruption.

#### DAVID O. DODD EXECUTED AS A SPY (1864).

While General Frederick Steele's army lay at Little Rock in the fall of 1863, David O. Dodd, a youth of seventeen years, spent some time in the city, employed in a sutler's store. Early in December, 1863, Dodd's father appeared in Little Rock and took his family, consisting of his wife, two daughters and David to Camden. The elder Dodd left some business matters unsettled and David returned to Little Rock to look after them. General James F. Fagan, of the Confederate army, then near Camden, gave the boy a pass. He reached the city in safety and remained there until after Christmas, when he set out intending to return to Camden. He was captured at a point some eight or ten miles southwest of the city, on the Hot Springs road; whence he was taken back to the city and accused of being a spy. Unfortunately, he had in his possession a memorandum book, or diary, which contained entries written in the telegraphic dots and dashes of the Morse code. Some of these entries referred to the strength of the Federal forces; though no evidence was produced to show that it was the boy's intention to turn the



information over to the enemy, he was tried by court-martial and hanged on January 8, 1864, by order of General Steele.

#### THE CONSTITUTION OF 1836 RE-ESTABLISHED (1864).

Not long after the occupation, on September 10, 1863, of Little Rock by General Frederick Steele, a movement was started for the formation of a state government that would be in harmony with the national Federal administration. On October 24, 1863, about a dozen citizens of Crawford and Sebastian counties met at Fort Smith and adopted resolutions favoring the establishment of a loyal state government under a new constitution. Six days later a public meeting was held in Little Rock for a similar purpose. Dr. John Kirkwood presided and Dr. E. D. Ayres was secretary. A committee, consisting of Isaac Murphy, William M. Fishback, E. W. Crowl, E. P. Filkins, and C. V. Meadors, was appointed to draft a communication to President Lincoln, assuring him of the loyalty of the people of the State, and asking the co-operation of the National Government to restore Arkansas to its original status as a member of the Union. About the same time conventions were held at Fort Smith and Van Buren and adopted resolutions calling upon the people of the several counties to elect delegates to a constitutional convention, to meet in Little Rock on the first Monday in January, 1864. The resolutions declared that "The purpose of such convention shall be to re-establish civil government and to restore normal relations with the Central Government". Acting upon the recommendations of these public meetings, twenty-four counties elected delegates to the proposed constitutional convention. The counties represented in the convention were as follows: Clark, Columbia, Conway, Crawford, Dallas, Drew, Hot Spring, Independence, Jackson, Jefferson, Madison, Montgomery, Newton, Ouchita, Phillips, Pike, Polk, Pope, Pulaski, St. Francis, Saline, Sebastian, Sevier and Yell. The delegates met at Little Rock on January 4, 1864, and the convention was organized by the election of John McCoy, president, and Robert J. T. White, secretary. Lieut-Colonel Chandler administered the oath of allegiance to the members. A committee of twelve was appointed to draft a constitution.



On January 13, the committee reported the old constitution of 1836, with certain changes "made necessary by the spirit of the times." Provision was made for submitting the constitution to a vote of the people at an election to be held on the 14th, 15th and 16th of March, when state officers and members of the General Assembly were to be elected, to take office in the event the constitution was ratified. The convention adjourned sine die on January 23, 1864, having been in session only eighteen days. At the election the constitution was approved by a vote of 12,177 to 266.

#### BATTLE OF POISON SPRING (1864).

General Frederick Steele set out from Little Rock in March, 1864, on what is known as the Camden Expedition. He had planned and undertook the expedition for the purpose of driving the Confederates out of the State. On April 15, his advance reached Camden, where the Confederate army of General Sterling Price had wintered. The town was occupied after but slight resistance. Three days later a spirited engagement was fought twelve miles northwest of Camden, between the confederates, commanded by Generals William L. Cabell, J. S. Marmaduke, S. B. Maxey and Thayer's division of the Federal Army. The result was a victory for the Confederates, who captured 220 wagons and 150 prisoners. This action was called by the Confederates the battle of Poison Spring, and by the Federals the battle of Prairie d'Ane.

#### BATTLE OF MARKS' MILL (1864).

The battle of Marks' Mill was fought April 25, 1864. General Powell Clayton, in command at Pine Bluff, had started a supply train in support of General Frederick Steele's Camden Expedition. At Mark's Mill, about two miles north of the present town of New Edinburgh, Cleveland county, while the Federals were encamped, they were attacked by General James F. Fagan's division. The escort of the supply train, consisting of 1,600 infantry and 400 cavalry, were not ready for the attack and after a short fight surrendered. Three hundred of the cavalry made their escape but the rest were



made prisoners and the entire train of 240 wagons was captured. Steele reported that the attacking force was composed of the forces of Fagan and Shelby and numbered 5,000 men.

#### BATTLE OF JENKINS' FERRY (1864).

The defeat of the Federals at Marks' Mill, where General Powell Clayton lost the supply train intended for the support of General Frederick Steele's Camden Expedition, left Steele in the heart of the enemy's country without sufficient ammunition and provisions to carry on an aggressive campaign, and he started on his retreat to Little Rock. At Jenkins' Ferry on the Saline River, about ten miles southwest of the present town of Sheridan, he was attacked on the morning of April 30, 1864, by General Sterling Price, who had received reinforcements from General Kirby Smith. By skillful maneuvering, Steele succeeded in getting his army across Saline River on pontoons, though he had finally to burn his wagons and supplies to prevent them from falling into the hands of the Confederates. The fight lasted about four hours and a half and both sides suffered severe losses. The Confederates did not pursue beyond the Saline, and Steel arrived at Little Rock after a tedious march.

#### PRICE'S RAID (1864).

Early in September, 1864, General Sterling Price, with General James F. Fagan second in command, broke camp in Southwest Arkansas and started on a raid through the northern part of the State and into Missouri. He met with resistance at various points, the most stubborn being Pilot Knob, Missouri, September 27th. The place was strongly fortified, but after one day's fighting the Federals blew up their ammunition and retreated during the night. It was thought that Price's objective point was St. Louis, but before reaching that city he turned westward. Sharp skirmishing occurred almost daily, with considerable engagements at Independence, Booneville and Westport. At Marias des Cygnes (Marsh of the Swans,) Kansas, Price found himself confronted by a strong force and suffered a reverse. Over three hundred of his men were captured, including a number of general and field officers. This broke the



backbone of the raid and Price started to retrace his steps. Late in October he reached his former quarters in the southern part of Arkansas. This movement practically ended the war in Arkansas.

#### THE SURRENDER OF THE CONFEDERATE STATES GOVERNMENT (1865).

The last significant official act of Governor Harris Flanagin, as chief executive of the Confederate government of Arkansas, was, it seems, the proclamation of an appeal "To the People of the State of Arkansas", dated May 23, 1865, at Washington, Arkansas. In order to prevent the spread of lawlessness and anarchy, he urged that "the people of every neighborhood form themselves into police guards, whose duty it shall be to protect the peace and quiet of the country." A "Law and Order" meeting of citizens met on June 15 in the court house—where Governor Flanagin had maintained the office of chief executive at Washington—and adopted the following resolutions of good-will and submission to the Union government, as headed by Governor Isaac Murphy at Little Rock.

"Whereas, By the dissolution of its civil government and the surrender of its armies, 'The Confederate States of America' has become extinct, and its citizens absolved from all further duties of allegiance, and

"Whereas, Every friend of humanity must be equally opposed to a state of anarchy; and of hopeless civil war with all of its horrors; we therefore resolve,

"1. That we return to and renew in good faith, and with the sincere intention to keep the same, our allegiance to the 'United States of America;' and that so many as may be able conscientiously to do so are advised to take the oath of amnesty lately proclaimed by President Johnson.

"2. That we can give full assurance to said Government of the United States that hostility to its authority has entirely ceased in our country, and there exists no lawlessness amongst us, which does not arise from a mere love of plunder, and which every good citizen is desirous of having suppressed in the speediest legal and constitutional manner, or otherwise if necessary.



"3. That we tender to the proper authorities, civil and military, of the United States our hearty co-operation for this purpose, and will receive them in amity and good will.

"And whereas, His excellency, Isaac Murphy, has recommended to the citizens of each county to make nominations of civil officers to be appointed in their respective counties, and whereas, the present county officers were elected by and have the confidence of the people, and we believe are willing to take and faithfully observe the oath of allegiance to the Constitution, laws and proclamations of the United States, including in the amnesty oath: Resolved further,

"That we recommend the appointment of our present county officers to their respective offices, so far as the governor may not be precluded by previous action in the matter—they taking the necessary oath and making the proper bonds."

#### THE GENERAL OFFICERS FROM ARKANSAS IN THE CONFEDERATE SERVICE (1861-'65).

Arkansas furnished four major-generals and twenty brigadier-generals to the Confederate armies, besides nine brigadier-generals commissioned by the state authorities. The major-generals, in order of their appointment, were: Thomas C. Hindman, Patrick R. Cleburn, James F. Fagan, and Thomas J. Churchill. The brigadier-generals, with the date of the appointment of each, where the date could be had, were: Charles W. Adams, 1862; Frank C. Armstrong, April 23, 1863; W. N. R. Beall, April 17, 1862; Archibald J. Dobbins, 1864; Thomas P. Dockery, August 10, 1863; Edward W. Gantt; Daniel C. Govan, February 6, 1864; Alexander T. Hawthorne, February 22, 1864; John L. Logan; Thomas H. McCray, 1863; Evander McNair, November 4, 1862; Dandridge McRae, November 5, 1862; M. M. Parsons, November, 5 1862; Albert Pike, August 15, 1861; Lucius E. Polk, December 20, 1862; Daniel H. Reynolds, March 12, 1864; John S. Roame, March 20, 1862; Albert Rust, March 6, 1862; James C. Tappan, November 5, 1862; L. Marsh Walker, April 11, 1862. The following were commissioned brigadier-generals by the State of Arkansas: Seth M. Barton, N. B. Burrow, William L. Cabell,



John H. Kelly, James McIntosh, John E. Murray, N. B. Pearce, Charles W. Phifer and James Yell.

#### CONFEDERATE WOMEN OF ARKANSAS (1861-'65).

While the men of Arkansas were in the field for principles, the women of the state nobly lent them aid in every possible way. They would meet in halls, churches and private homes to scrape linen, make bandages and other hospital supplies, often contributing their table linen, bed clothing, cambric curtains, and what not, for the purpose. They organized sewing societies for making clothing for the soldiers. Aristocratic fingers, unused to work, were taught by heroic resolution to handle the needle, knit socks, card wool, and even use the hand loom in weaving cloth. The cloth they wove was coarse in texture and the garments they made were not of the latest fashion, but they served to keep their loved ones comfortable. It was no doubt due to the heroic labors and sacrifices of the woman that the South was able to hold out as long as it did. On the state capitol grounds in Little Rock stands a monument dedicated in 1912 "To the Mothers of Arkansas" for the part they took in these labors and sacrifices. Soldiers' monuments have been erected all over the country, but Arkansas is one of the very few states thus to commemorate the unselfish devotion of its daughters in times which tried men's souls.

#### THE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM OF ARKANSAS ESTABLISHED (1867).

By the autumn of 1863 practically all that part of Arkansas north of the Arkansas River was in the hands of the Federals. Under a proclamation by President Abraham Lincoln a constitutional convention was held at Little Rock in January, 1864. And under that constitution Isaac Murphy was elected governor. For some years before the war he had been a teacher in Northwestern Arkansas. He was naturally interested in the subject of education. In his first message to the General Assembly he said: "As this is the first session of the Legislature of the free State of Arkansas, I trust that your honorable body will provide by law that every child in the State shall have an



opportunity of acquiring a good education, and not only give the opportunity, but make the education of the rising generation a duty to the State, to be enforced by proper penalties. Ignorance leads to slavery; intelligence to freedom." That Legislature failed to act upon Murphy's suggestion, and at the next session, which met in November, 1866, he used stronger language in urging the establishment of a free school system based on taxation. On March 18, 1867, five days before the final adjournment, the General Assembly passed a law which, in many respects, has formed the basis of all subsequent school legislation. It provided that "for the purpose of establishing a system of common school education in this State a tax is hereby levied of twenty cents on every \$100 worth of taxable property in this State, and shall be collected and paid into the State treasury annually, in the same manner as now provided by law for other State taxes. The act also provided for the election of a State superintendent of public instruction at the general election in 1868, and for an appointment by the Legislature for the interim. The Legislature elected F. R. Earle, president of Cane Hill College, superintendent of public instruction, but he was removed by a military order of Gen. E. O. C. Ord on August 9, 1867, on the grounds that "his services are not needed". Stephen B. Weeks, in a history of the public school system of Arkansas, published by the United States Bureau of Education, says of the Murphy government: "The service of this regime was not so much the actual organization of schools, but the creation of resources which made the schools of the future a possibility. For this service the 'rebel' Legislature of 1866-67 and the 'Union' governor, Murphy, deserve to be held in grateful remembrance by the people of Arkansas."

**A STATE CONSTITUTION FRAMED AND ADOPTED BY CARPET-BAG RECONSTRUCTORS (1868).**

Congress passed March 2, 1867, over President Andrew Johnson's veto, the famous reconstruction act "for the more efficient government of the Rebel States". Under this, and supplementary acts, Arkansas and Mississippi were constituted the Fourth Military District. Major-General E. O. C. Ord was made commander-in-chief of the district, with head-



quarters at Vicksburg, Mississippi. The sub-district of Arkansas was commanded first by Brigadier-General C. H. Smith, and later by General Alvan C. Gillem. On July 8, 1867, several members of the Arkansas General Assembly assembled in Little Rock to attend an adjourned session of that body; whereupon they were told by General Smith that he had orders from General Ord not to allow them to organize for the transaction of business. Thus did military rule, as perpetrated by the Congressional plan of reconstruction, begin its work of undoing the orderly and efficient civil government established under Governor Isaac Murphy. The next important undoing step, as provided for under Congressional reconstruction, called for the registration of voters, under the superintendence of the military government. This was done in preparation for the holding of an election for the choice of delegates to a convention to frame a State constitution. On September 26, 1867, General Ord issued "General Orders No. 31", declaring the registration of voters in Arkansas complete and ordering an election "commencing on the first Tuesday in November". General Order No. 31, also apportioned the seventy-five delegates to be chosen from the several counties, and prescribed rules and regulations to govern the manner of conducting the election in all precincts. The election was held in the different precincts of the various counties on separate days. Thus the election for the State as a whole continued through several days. But few of the ex-Confederates took any part at all in the election, many of whom were disfranchised. Under the tutelage of the army of occupation, the negroes were marched to the polls and told how to vote. Of the delegates chosen, eight were negroes; the rest, but for a few notable exceptions, were carpetbaggers and scalawags. The convention met at Little Rock, in the house of representatives, January 7, 1868, and continued in session until February 11. The constitution, as framed by this convention, gave the negroes the elective franchise and otherwise provided the necessary machinery for keeping the control of State affairs in the hands of the carpetbaggers. The new constitution was declared adopted by the people April 23, 1868, by a vote of 27,913 "for" to 26,597 "against".



**THE ARKANSAS DEAF MUTE INSTITUTE ESTABLISHED (1868).**

The Arkansas Gazette and Democrat of March 21, 1851, contained the following announcement: "The trustees of the Clarksville Institute have made arrangements to have a class of deaf mutes taught. The school for mutes will open on the first of May. Tuition gratis. Boarding can be had very reasonable. Only a limited number of pupils (6 or 8) will be taken. Persons wishing to send may know more by addressing the Trustees of the Clarksville Institute, Johnson County, Ark. Application must be made soon." This was the first attempt to establish a school for the education of deaf mutes in Arkansas. The Clarksville Institute, however, for want of patronage, was, after few months, suspended. Then, in 1860, a deaf mute school was organized in Fort Smith. Then came the war, and, like many similar institutions in the South, it was crushed out of existence. On July 10, 1867, Joseph Mount, himself a deaf mute, opened a school in Little Rock. It was a private institution, though the city contributed to its support. By an act of the General Assembly approved July 17, 1868, this school was incorporated as "The Arkansas Deaf Mute Institute" and permanently located at Little Rock. It has since enjoyed the liberal support of State, as one of the charitable institutions of the State.

**MARTIAL LAW DECLARED—ONE OF THE TYPICAL OUTRAGES OF RECONSTRUCTION (1868).**

The first Republican governor, under the constitution of 1868, General Powell Clayton, was inaugurated July 2, 1868. And the Clayton regime, of the next four years, made a record of tyranny and misrule as black as the blackest of the "Black Republican" governments perpetrated upon the Southern States by Congressional reconstruction. Under the pretense of suppressing the Ku Klux Klan, Clayton, almost immediately upon taking office, organized a secret detective force composed of his political henchmen; issued instructions to the officers of the State militia, according to his own statement, "to proceed with the utmost secrecy and dispatch in the further organization of the State Guards". The "Guards" thus secretly organized were made up of negroes and guerrillas,



whose chief recommendation was their zest and capacity for the bloody work which Clayton had for them to do. On November 4, 1868, the militia having been organized with "the utmost secrecy", Governor Clayton issued his proclamation declaring martial law in the counties of Ashley, Bradley, Columbia, Craighead, Greene, Lafayette, Little River, Mississippi and Woodruff. Three days later he divided the State into six military districts and appointed a commanding officer in each "for the purpose of perfecting the organization of the militia and carrying into effect the proclamation declaring martial law." Martial law was soon extended to other counties, until the greater part of the State was in the hands of the "State Guards". Naturally enough, social conditions were not normal following the War. But where there had been one outrage committed during Governor Isaac Murphy's administration, from 1864 to 1868, there were scores of murders and robberies and what not as soon as Clayton's Guards took the field.

#### THE KU-KLUX KLAN (1868).

It is said upon the very best authority that "There was really no organization of the Ku-Klux Klan in the State of Arkansas." That there were "sporadic attempts" to form such an organization, which "came to naught", seems a true enough statement of the facts. Yet the late Powell Clayton, during the time of his administration as governor of Arkansas, made a great fuss of accusing the Ku-Klux of every crime imaginable. One acquainted with conditions from personal observation said, "Clayton was no coward. His exhibition of apprehension at the existence of the Ku-Klux must have been simulated. He had his spy in the only lodge ever organized in Little Rock, and he knew that it held but one meeting; that it never took the slightest action of any kind, and disbanded." There were, it seems, other lodges formed during the Clayton regime; whose history was much the same as this brief history of the lodge at Little Rock. It is true, perhaps, that the late General Robert G. Shaver was commissioned by the Grand Wizard, General Nathan B. Forrest, Grand Dragon of the realm of Arkansas. But it is true also that the organization of



the State as a realm was never perfected. Thus Clayton's accusations at the time, and as well the vindictive stuff of the same sort with which he late in life all but filled his book, "The Aftermath of the Civil War in Arkansas", were manifestly framed by himself and his henchmen for reasons of his own of a political nature, or from pure malice.

#### THE STATE DEBT FUNDED (1869).

Of the more than three million dollars in bonds issued for the benefit of the Real Estate Bank and the State Bank of Arkansas thirty years before, there was, in 1869, an unpaid balance, including principal and interest, of \$4,331,092. Part of these old bonds fell due on January 1, 1868. But the State had not the money with which to redeem them. Thus Governor Powell Clayton advised, in his message to the General Assembly in November, 1868, that steps be taken to fund the whole amount of the State's bonded debt by issuing new bonds and cancelling the old ones. An act to that effect was accordingly passed; which act Clayton approved April 6, 1869. By this act the governor was "authorized and required to fund the debt of the State, consisting of bonds issued by the State to the Real Estate Bank and the State Bank, by issuing new bonds of the State, . . . . . for the sum of \$1,000 each, payable thirty years after date and bearing interest at the rate of six per cent. per annum." Of the bonds thus funded, all have been long since paid, except the so-called Holford bonds, the history of which is told in another place.

#### ARKANSAS EDUCATION ASSOCIATION (1869).

This association was organized at Little Rock in 1869. Thomas Smith, the first state superintendent of public instruction, was also the first president of the association. The name of the association was originally, and until the year 1920, the Arkansas Teachers' Association. In 1920 the name was changed to the Arkansas Educational Association. And in 1924 the name was again changed to the Arkansas Education Association. The association, though organized during the reconstruction era following the War of Secession, did not get its stride of growth and become a really strong and in-



fluent body until after the state government had been wrested from the control of the carpetbaggers. The association has played an important part in uniting public opinion, which in turn has for the most part moulded the educational policy of the state government, ever since the latter was rescued from the domination of the foreign reconstructionists. The association was largely responsible for the adoption of the progressive measures in behalf of the schools by the General Assemblies of 1873 and 1875. Indeed, the same may be said of the association as regards nearly every outstanding improvement made in the school laws of the state from the early seventies until now. The proceedings of the association for the fifty-sixth session held, to and including the session of 1924, have been printed, as a rule, in pamphlet form. It has a membership at present, 1925, of approximately 8,000, most of whom are actively engaged in the profession of teaching. In point of years, the association is the oldest popular organization of state-wide membership—except for several fraternal societies—now in existence in Arkansas.

#### THE FIRST STREET RAILWAY IN ARKANSAS INCORPORATED (1870).

The first street car company in Arkansas was incorporated at Little Rock June 17, 1870. W. E. Wright was president and the franchise required the company to have one-half mile of track laid and in use within three years. The company failed to carry out this provision and on June 13, 1873, a franchise was granted to the Citizens Street Railway Company. About the same time the Little Rock Railway Company was incorporated. On October 10, 1876, Logan H. Roots, Thomas Fletcher and John M. Harrell applied for a charter to lay a street railway line on Markham Street; and at the same time John Cross and Charles R. Diver submitted a proposition to construct a street railway. Both the latter propositions were accepted and, shortly thereafter, the first "mule car" made its appearance upon the streets. During the period from 1881 to 1887 three other street railway companies were incorporated. One of these—the City Electric Street Railway Company—obtained a charter permitting it to use either electric or steam power. The line was built from the junction of Second and



Louisiana Streets to the southwestern part of the city, two diminutive locomotives were purchased, and the road went into operation on July 4, 1888. The locomotives each drew one or two cars, as occasion demanded, and made the round trip in about an hour. In June, 1895, this company and the Capital City Railway Company went into the hands of a receiver and were reorganized as the Little Rock Railway and Electric Company, with Judge Wilson E. Hemingway as president.

**THE STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY OF ARKANSAS  
FORMED (1870).**

Delegates from a number of county medical societies met in Little Rock November 21, 1870, for the purpose of effecting a state organization of the physicians of Arkansas. At that meeting Dr. J. M. Holcombe, of Jefferson county, presided, with Drs. E. V. Deuell and M. C. Boyce acting as secretaries. A constitution and by-laws were adopted and the following officers were elected: Dr. P. O. Hooper, president; E. R. Du Val, W. P. Hart and S. W. Jones, vice presidents; E. V. Deuell and Julian C. Feild, recording secretaries; Claiborne Watkins, corresponding secretary; J. B. Bond, treasurer. The organization was called the State Medical Association. In October, 1875, a new constitution and by-laws were adopted and the name was changed to the State Medical Society of Arkansas. The new constitution was signed by 217 members and the following officers were elected: Dr. W. B. Welch, president; Drs. Albert Dunlap, Randolph Brunson, J. P. Mitchell and E. T. Dale, vice presidents; Dr. R. G. Jennings, secretary; Dr. A. L. Breysacher, treasurer. Since that time the growth of the society has been steady. It now has more than a thousand members.

**THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS ESTABLISHED (1871).**

The University of Arkansas was established by an act of the General Assembly approved March 27, 1871. This act, "for the location, organization and maintenance of the Arkansas Industrial University with a normal department therein", accepted the terms of the so-called Morrill act of Congress.



Justin S. Morrill, a member of Congress from Vermont, had proposed as long ago as 1857, a bill in Congress "donating public lands to the several states and territories which may provide colleges for the benefit of agriculture and the mechanic arts." The House passed the bill in April, 1858. It was not, however, taken up by the Senate until the next session, where it was passed February 1, 1859. Whereupon President James Buchanan promptly vetoed it. But Morrill brought in a new bill in December, 1861; which was passed by both houses of Congress, and approved by President Abraham Lincoln July 2, 1862. Thus each state or territory was granted, upon certain conditions, 30,000 acres of public lands for each of its senators and representatives in Congress, as apportioned under the census of 1860. States wishing to benefit by the grant were required to accept the gift and agree to all the conditions imposed within the space of two years. Arkansas was, then, of course, one of the seceded states; so that nothing was done about the matter in Arkansas until 1864. But on May 11, 1864, Governor Isaac Murphy approved an act of the General Assembly accepting the grant and pledging the State of Arkansas to fulfil all the conditions imposed. Then came the struggle in Congress over reconstruction; the refusal of Congress to seat the senators and representatives elected to Congress from Arkansas, as reconstructed by the Murphy government, and nothing further was done about the university grant until 1866. In July of that year Congress amended the Morrill act so as to include the reconstructed states, and extending the time three years for their acceptance of the conditions. Accordingly, Governor Murphy approved, January 31, 1867, another act similar to the one he had approved in 1864. But the Murphy government was not allowed to establish the university. A new constitution was adopted by the carpet-bagger regime in 1868, Powell Clayton was elected governor and on July 23, 1868, he approved an act entitled "An Act establishing an Industrial University". Under this act, a board was appointed to receive bids for a location and to report to the next session of the General Assembly. Nothing having come of these plans, a new act was passed at the session of 1871; which, as already stated, was approved March 27. By the terms of this act, any county, city or incorporated



town was authorized to bid for the location of the University and to raise money for the erection of buildings either by levying a tax or by the issue of bonds. Fayetteville was the successful bidder and the site chosen was without buildings, except one six-room dwelling. The citizens of Fayetteville and Washington County undertook to remodel the dwelling and erect a two-story frame structure which could be used temporarily for school purposes and later be converted into a dormitory. The university opened on January 22, 1872, with N. P. Gates as president.

#### THE FIRST KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS LODGE ORGANIZED (1872).

On October 20, 1872, Alpha Lodge No. 1, Knights of Pythias, was instituted at Fort Smith. This was the first Pythian Lodge organized in Arkansas. It lived but a few months, but before it perished two other lodges had been organized, with eight lodges participating. The membership instituted on April 14, 1873, and is now the oldest lodge in the state. On June 23, 1881, the Arkansas Grand Lodge was organized, with eight lodges participating. The membership in the state at that time was not quite five hundred. Thomas Essex, of Little Rock, was elected the first grand chancellor and John M. Taylor, of Pine Bluff, the first grand keeper of the records and seal. At the beginning of the year 1921, there were over one hundred lodges in Arkansas, with a membership of about six thousand.

#### THE PRESS ASSOCIATION ORGANIZED (1873).

Pursuant to a call made by the editors of several newspapers of Arkansas, a number of editors and publishers met on October 15, 1873, in Little Rock for the purpose of organizing a state press association. James Torrans, of the Little Rock Republican, was called to the chair and J. N. Smithee, of The Arkansas Gazette, was elected secretary. H. A. Pierce, J. N. Smithee and William R. Burke were appointed a committee on permanent organization, after which the meeting adjourned until 10 A. M. the next day. At the adjourned session the committee submitted a constitution, which



was adopted. E. N. Hill, J. B. Bezzo, and Adam Clark were then appointed a committee to prepare a code of by-laws for the association, but at the evening session this committee was given until the next annual meeting to complete its work. The following officers were then elected: J. N. Smithee, president; James Torrans, vice president; Jacob Frolich, secretary; William R. Burke, treasurer. Immediately after the election of officers, the association adjourned to the Metropolitan Hotel, where a banquet was served. A number of toasts and responses were offered and the evening was a "feast of reason and flow of soul." At the conclusion of the banquet the Arkansas Press Association adjourned to meet on the first Wednesday in June, 1874. Since its organization the association has held annual meetings, and has also held a number of "mid-winter meetings", at which the social feature predominated. At the forty-ninth meeting, held in Hot Springs, June 15-16, 1921, steps were taken to build a club house at Glenwood, Pike County, where Graham Burnham, of the Glenwood "Houn' Dog", offered to donate ten acres of land on the Caddo River for the purpose. In fact, the project was first proposed in 1920, and a special committee, appointed to examine the site, made a favorable report.

#### THE BROOKS-BAXTER WAR (1874).

In the election of 1872 the Republican party of Arkansas was split up into two factions. The "Minstrels", who claimed to be the regular Republicans, nominated Elisha Baxter as candidate for governor. The "Brindles", who identified themselves with the national "liberal" Republicans, put in nomination Joseph Brooks. The Democrats did not nominate a candidate of their own, but endorsed the nomination of Brooks. The election was held November 5, 1872. Of the more than eighty thousand votes cast, Baxter was officially declared to have received a majority of 2,948. Brooks refused to abide by the returns, as officially made, declaring that he himself had been legally elected. A convention of Brooks' supporters met at Little Rock on January 4, 1873, but two days before the day set for the meeting of the General Assembly. The Brooks men were bent it seems, on making an issue of the disputed election in the legislature. In view



of the gathering of Brooks men, Ozra A. Hadley, acting governor, put the state capitol under a guard of Powell Clayton's militia. Thus the plans of Brooks and his followers to force the seating of Brooks as governor were, for the time, defeated. Baxter was inaugurated and the General Assembly continued in session until April 25, 1873. On June 3, following, T. D. W. Yonley, the attorney general, instituted, on the relation of Brooks, quo warranto proceedings in the Supreme Court against Baxter; which the court dismissed the next day, declaring that it had no jurisdiction in the matter. Powell Clayton, who, by dint of his hold upon affairs as governor, had got himself elected to the United States Senate in 1871, had thus far supported Baxter, intending no doubt to use Baxter as a willing tool in maintaining his (Clayton's) control of the state from his seat in the United States Senate. Brooks' next move was to file a suit in the circuit court of Pulaski County setting forth that Baxter had usurped the office of governor and demanding that he be ousted. While this suit was still pending, the Clayton wing of the Republican party discovered something upon which they had counted not all: Baxter refused to take orders from Clayton; in making appointments, he was plainly trying to choose men of character and ability for positions of trust regardless of politics; frustrated were the well laid plans of Clayton's followers to use the government to enrich themselves. Clayton promptly went over to the side of Brooks. Likewise, most of the Democrats, who had supported Brooks, turned now to Baxter. On April 15, 1874, Judge John Whytock, of the Pulaski Circuit Court, in the absence of Baxter and his attorneys, decided Brooks' suit against Baxter in favor of Brooks—that Brooks was the lawfully elected governor. What then happened is best told perhaps by Baxter himself, in a letter written a few weeks later to the New York Herald: "By an extraordinary coincidence Mr. Brooks and his friends were convenient to the scene of the judgment. Without awaiting the issue of the writ of ouster, and upon the overruling of the demurrer, no moment of time being given for the filing of an answer on the merits of the case, these gentlemen procuring a mere copy of the minutes of the judge's action, and, by a second coincidence, finding the chief justice close by, had Mr. Brooks



secretly sworn as governor. The party proceeded without delay to the executive office, where, as I have in a public proclamation remarked, the traditions of the American people would have rendered it absurd to place an armed guard or even a vidette, Mr. Brooks, in person, with an armed force of a dozen or twenty, took possession of my room, and I was permitted to the alternative of forcible and unseemly ejection, or of such arrest and punishment as he might see fit to inflict. Before I could take measures to reoccupy the state-house it was filled with armed desperadoes." Governor Baxter went at once to St. John's College, near the present City Park, whence he issued a proclamation to the people and commissioned the college cadets as a sort of body guard. Later he established headquarters at the Anthony House on the south side of Markham street between Main and Scott streets. Meantime, both Baxter and Brooks had appealed to President U. S. Grant for recognition; who said in reply that the contest was a matter for the courts to settle. Senator Clayton telegraphed Brooks from Washington, "We rely on your maintaining your vantage ground, which you must hold at any cost." A meeting of the leading lawyers of the state at Little Rock on April 16th denounced the whole judicial proceedings by which Brooks justified his revolutionary act of usurpation as null and void. In an address signed by forty-four attorneys, the people were urged to rally to the support of Baxter. Volunteers from many parts of the state hurried to Little Rock, in support of the one side or the other, until within a few days there were not less than three thousand armed men in the city. Robert C. Newton was appointed Major-General of Baxter's army; Brooks commissioned Major-General James F. Fagan commander-in-chief of his forces. The first actual fighting occurred on the afternoon of April 20, 1874. The fighting started by the parading of some five hundred Baxter reinforcements, just arrived from Pine Bluff, who had halted in front of the Anthony House to hear Governor Baxter speak from a balcony of the hotel. A pistol was fired, as the result of a scuffle between two officers of the opposing forces. In the excitement, other shots were fired, and then followed an irregular skirmish in Markham street between Brook's men, who were posted near by to guard the State Capitol, and the



Baxter men. David F. Shall, sitting near a window in the hotel was killed, and two others were wounded. On April 30th, the steamboat "Hallie", with two hundred Baxter men on board, was sent down the Arkansas to intercept a company of negroes intended as reinforcements for Brooks. Near New Gascony, twenty-five miles below Pine Bluff, the two forces engaged in a skirmish, in which seven of the Brooks men were killed and thirty others wounded. There was fighting again on May 8th, in which the steamboat "Hallie" played an important part. As the steamboat passed up the river with a company of Baxter men on board, sent to capture supplies and reinforcements coming to the relief of Brooks, the "Hallie" was fired on as it passed the State Capitol. Several hundred Brooks men were sent by train to the south of Palarm Creek, where they concealed themselves and waited for the "Hallie". In the fighting that followed, between the Brooks men on shore and the "Hallie", there were several casualties on both sides. This affair is known as "The Battle of Palarm". The "War" was finally settled by proclamation of President Grant, issued May 15, 1874, in which Baxter was recognized as the lawfully elected governor.

**"LADY BAXTER" CHRISTENED (1874).**

Soon after the beginning of the Civil War in 1861, the steamboat "Pontchartrain" brought from New Orleans a sixty-four-pound cannon for the defense of Little Rock. This gun was placed on the bank of the river, in a position to destroy any boat coming up stream. Thus, during the first half of the war, the old gun was kept in readiness for the defense of the city. When the Confederates evacuated Little Rock on September 10, 1863, upon the approach of General Frederick Steele, the big gun was spiked by order of Capt. John T. Trigg, commanding the battery, and was abandoned, being too heavy to carry on the retreat. Late in April, 1874, during the Brooks-Baxter War, the Baxter forces found the old cannon lying half-imbedded in the earth near the foot of Byrd street. It was resurrected, christened "Lady Baxter", made ready for use, and was placed in position in the rear of the Metropolitan Hotel, on the corner of Main and Markham streets, to prevent the landing of boats coming up the river



with men or supplies for Brooks. The only time the gun was discharged after its resurrection was in the salute fired in honor of Governor Baxter's return to the capitol on May 19, 1874. Subsequently, "Lady Baxter" was mounted in the old capitol grounds, where it still stands as a mute reminder of reconstruction days.

#### A NEW CONSTITUTION; THE END OF CARPETBAG MIS-RULE (1874).

On April 22, 1874, while the Brooks-Baxter war was at its height, Governor Baxter issued a call for the General Assembly to meet in special session on the 11th of May. Pursuant to the call, the Legislature met (inside the Baxter lines) and as both the Lieutenant-governor and Speaker Tankersley were absent, J. G. Frierson was elected president pro tempore of the senate, and James H. Berry was chosen speaker. The most important act of the session was that of calling a constitutional convention, which act was approved by Governor Baxter on May 18, 1874. It provided for an election to be held on the last day of June and apportioned the delegates among the several counties of the state. At the election 80,259 votes were cast "For Convention" and only 8,547 "Against Convention". The convention organized by the election of Grandison D. Royston president, and Thomas W. Newton secretary. On September 7, 1874, the constitution was completed and signed by a majority of the delegates. The constitution was submitted to the people at an election held on October 13, 1874, when it was ratified by a vote of 78,697 to 24,807.

#### THE RESTORATION OF WHITE SUPREMACY (1874).

On July 21, 1874, while the constitutional convention which framed the present constitution of Arkansas, was still in session, a mass meeting of citizens in Little Rock issued a call for a Democratic state convention; suggested a basis of representation for such a convention of eighty-five delegates; proposed that the said convention be held immediately upon the adjournment of the constitutional convention. It was assumed, as a matter of course, that the new constitution



would provide for the election of a new set of state officers; which it did, setting October 13, 1874, as the day for the election. Thus, the proposed constitution provided for two elections in one—its own ratification or rejection and the choice of new state officials, who should take office in the event of the adoption of the constitution itself. But meantime the Democratic state convention, as proposed at Little Rock in July, had met there on September 8th. The delegates nominated Elisha Baxter for governor on the first ballot. But Governor Baxter declined the nomination, as he said, in a message acknowledging the honor done him, "for the public good". Again the convention nominated him—this time by acclamation; again he refused to accept; whereupon Augustus H. Garland was nominated. The Republicans took the position that the proposed constitution was illegally framed. Naturally, therefore, they put in nomination no opposing ticket. Thus Garland and the rest of the Democratic ticket were elected, October 13, 1874, by a practically unanimous vote. The inauguration of Garland, which took place November 12, 1874, is significant as the final consummation of the process by which Arkansas was freed of the political regime foisted upon it by Congressional reconstruction. So-called "Reconstruction", as instituted and maintained by the familiar combination of carpet-baggers, scallawags and negroes had had its day; real reconstruction of a new political, social and economic structure was, with the election of Garland, honestly and hopefully begun.

#### ARKANSAS REPRESENTED AT THE CENTENNIAL EXPOSITION IN PHILADELPHIA (1876).

Governor August H. Garland, in his message to the General Assembly on November 1, 1875, on the first day of the special, or adjourned, session of the Legislature of that year, recommended that an appropriation be made for an exhibition of the state's products at the Centennial Exposition, to be held in Philadelphia during the summer of 1876, in celebration of the hundredth anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. Accordingly, the sum of \$15,000 was appropriated for that purpose, by an act approved November 30, 1875. Though



the fund was a modest one, it is said that the building which was erected was highly appropriate to the occasion; that the exhibits displayed were a credit to the state. The truth of both these statements is avouched by the acts of the Bureau of Awards in awarding Arkansas honorable mention as follows: (1) For a large, well-planned state building; (2) For a large, comprehensive, and very attractive exhibit of the natural and industrial products of the state, and a very valuable mineral collection; (3) For a large collection of native woods; (4) For an exhibit of agricultural products, especially of corn and cotton, the latter equalling any fiber of its kind raised in the United States. The state took first and second premiums also of \$1,000 and \$500 each for cotton exhibited in the bale. This was the first attempt on the part of Arkansas to display its resources abroad. The next year, in 1877, a statue designed to represent the state coat of arms on the Arkansas building at the exposition was brought from Philadelphia and set up on a pediment over the main entrance of the State Capitol.

#### HOT SPRINGS MADE A NATIONAL PARK (1877).

The title to the land upon which much of the city of Hot Springs is built was in dispute until 1877. There were then three separate claimants of land there, whose claims overlapped. Elias Rector, father of Governor Henry M. Rector, bought, in 1820, a New Madrid certificate of one Francis Langlois, which certificate he (Rector) located on a tract including the springs. Another claim to the land was based on the settlement of Ludovicus Belding, who settled at the spring in 1828. Still others known as the Hale claimants, based their titles on the occupation of the valley by John Perciful, who bought, in 1809, the occupation claim of Manuel Prudhomme, the latter having built the first cabin there in 1807. This uncertainty as to the ownership of the town site, it seems, retarded the growth of the town almost from the time that Arkansas was created a territory, in 1819, until the question was finally settled. The "Daily Advertiser" of Philadelphia on May 18, 1835, printed an article in which it was said that the Hot Springs "have been known almost as long as the Arkansas River and have been a place of great resort, particular-



ly from the South, for many years past. All that is necessary to make them a place of fashionable resort—as they have heretofore been for health—is the want of those extensive and permanent edifices which are usually looked for by visitors at such places. Such buildings cannot be expected until the title to the land on which they (the springs) are situate shall be settled”. In the meantime, Congress had passed an act as early as 1832 setting apart four sections of land, including the springs, as exempt from private ownership, “by purchase, settlement or preemption”. Nevertheless, the several claimants persisted in their claims, and in 1852 went into the courts to determine by litigation who was entitled to the property. Some years later the United States Supreme Court decided against all three claimants. But in 1877 Congress authorized the appointment of commissioners to settle the rights of possession. By this time the valley contained some four thousand inhabitants. The commissioners placed valuations upon the various parcels of land and decided who were entitled to purchase the same. In this way the Belding and Hale claimants were enabled to purchase at least a portion of the land they claimed, but the Rector claim was barred. The commissioners also laid out the city and caused the Hot Springs Reservation to be surveyed. The survey was approved by an act of Congress on March 3, 1877, making this reservation the second national park in the United States, the Yellowstone National Park having been established by the act of March 1, 1872.

#### THE STATE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY FORMED (1879).

The State Horticultural Society of Arkansas was organized on May 24, 1879. E. F. Babcock was elected the first president and M. M. Manville, secretary. Prior to that time fruits and vegetables, that come under the head of horticulture, had been grown in various sections of the state, but no concerted effort had been made to encourage the industry. The society was incorporated on January 31, 1889. Under its auspices the first fair was held in Little Rock, beginning on May 15, 1889. The society holds its meetings annually.



**THE FIRST STATION OF THE WEATHER BUREAU  
IN ARKANSAS ESTABLISHED (1879)**

The United States Weather Bureau opened at Little Rock the first station in Arkansas for observing and recording weather conditions July 1, 1879. The "Arkansas Democrat" of June 27, 1879, says:

"Sergeant Wm. Line, of the United States Signal Service Corps, United States Army, accompanied by his family, arrived in the city a few days since from Toledo, having been ordered to take up his residence and establish a station in this city.

"He is now obeying orders, having rented room No. 1, second story of the Stoddard block, from the roof of which the observations will be taken, and upon which the many and complicated instruments are now being secured. The roof of the building is about seventy-five feet above the street, and the weather indicator and other instruments can be seen from all parts of the city. The officer informs us that he will keep a report as follows: meteorological observations, report of barometer, thermometer, humidity, wind and its direction and velocity, amount of upper and lower clouds and the direction in which they move, amount of rainfall, and weather phenomena in general.

"The iron staffs upon which the instruments are fastened are hollow and connect with delicate instruments in the office, denoting the conditions without the necessity of examining the instruments on the roof. Reports will be made daily after the 1st of July."

**THE FIRST TELEPHONES IN ARKANSAS (1879).**

The Western Union Telegraph Company installed telephone service at Little Rock in 1879. The Little Rock Exchange put into service in November of that year, is, it seems, the third oldest telephone exchange in the United States. The Western Union in 1881 sold the exchange to a local company, of which the late Col. Logan H. Roots was president. In 1883, the Southwestern Telegraph and Telephone Company was organized and purchased the property. The exchange, located



at 108 Scott street, then the office of the Western Union, started with but ten subscribers. The first directory was published in 1880. There were then, within a year after the installment of the exchange, about eighty subscribers. The following is quoted from an article which appeared in The Arkansas Gazette of August 1, 1915: 'The first operator in the Little Rock telephone exchange was the late A. F. Adams, who later became superintendent of the company in Little Rock and died after 25 years' service. Beauregard Morrison, now buyer for the Fones Bros. Hardware Company, was the first night operator and Mrs. Morrison has the distinction of being not only the first woman operator in Little Rock, but in the United States. Sam W. Rayburn, president of the Union Trust Company, and Ashley Peay, city sidewalk inspector, were among the first of the operators in the exchange." Since its establishment in 1879, the exchange has been twice moved—first to the second story of the building on the northwest corner of Second and Main streets, and later to its present location on the southeast corner of Seventh and Louisiana streets.

WHEN THE FIRST EX-PRESIDENT OR PRESIDENT  
OF THE UNITED STATES VISITED ARKANSAS (1880).

General Ulysses S. Grant, ex-President of the United States, visited Little Rock, and Arkansas, in April, 1880. General Grant arrived in Little Rock at 7 o'clock on the evening of April 15, where he remained until the morning of April 17th. The visit, intended as a courtesy to the State of Arkansas as a whole, was generally so esteemed; delegations from many parts of the state were sent to Little Rock formally to greet and welcome the distinguished visitor. An eyewitness of the events of the memorable occasion, accounting for the cordial manner of General Grant's reception, said:

"The Democratic leaders of the state, who were especially grateful to the ex-president, bestowed upon him every mark of respect. It was on May 15, 1874, that President Grant issued his memorable proclamation by which he recognized Elisha Baxter as governor of Arkansas after a month's armed contest with Joseph Brooks and his supporters, which



resulted in the restoration of the state to the control of the Democratic party. In conversation with General Grant, Col. B. D. Williams, a Democrat, said:

“ ‘The Democrats of Arkansas have a warm spot in their hearts for you, both for your kindness to Lee at Appomattox and for your recognition of Governor Baxter six years ago.’ ”

“ ‘Well, what else could I have done?’ replied General Grant. ‘The properly constituted authorities had declared in 1872 that Baxter was elected governor and he was recognized as such by the Legislature. I only performed my duty. The Democrats of Arkansas, I have found, are a pretty good set of fellows.’ ”

His two nights in Little Rock he spent at the old Capital Hotel. During the morning of April 16th, there was such a parade as was never before seen in Arkansas. In a brief speech, following the parade, Grant said:

“Citizens of Arkansas: It is with much pleasure that I find myself among you. I believe that your future prosperity lies in the absence of all sectional feeling and animosity. You have the soil to cultivate and the latitude for a great variety of productions, but I understand you need many more people thoroughly to cultivate your cotton. These people, I hear, are coming, and I wish for Arkansas that the welcome of all newcomers may be cordial, no matter from whence they come. I thank you.”

In the evening he was given a banquet at Concordia Hall; upon which occasion he responded to the toast, “The United States of America.”

#### THE BAR ASSOCIATION OF ARKANSAS ORGANIZED (1882).

The first attempt to organize a bar association in Arkansas, of which there is any known record, was that of November 24, 1837, when nineteen lawyers met in Little Rock and organized the “Bar Association of the State of Arkansas”. These lawyers were: Chester Ashley, William McK. Ball, S. D. Blackburn, John J. Clendenin, John W. Cooke, William



Conway, B. Edward Cross, P. T. Crutchfield, William Cummins, Absalom Fowler, Nathan Haggard, Samuel S. Hall, Samuel H. Hempstead, William B. R. Horner, Lemuel R. Lincoln, Albert Pike, William C. Scott, F. W. Trapnall and George C. Watkins. Mr. Ball was from Fayetteville, Mr. Haggard from Batesville and Mr. Horner from Helena. All the others resided at Little Rock. This association seems to have held no meetings after January 15, 1888, when the president was directed to appoint a committee of three "to draft a petition to the Legislature, praying an appropriation for the procuring of a law library, for the use of the Supreme Court, and members of the bar licensed to practice therein, to be under the control and safe keeping of this association". But on March 15, 1882, a meeting was held at the office of Judge U. M. Rose, at Little Rock, for the purpose of taking the necessary steps to organize a State Bar Association. Twenty-two lawyers were present, B. B. Battle, M. W. Benjamin, B. C. Brown, Sterling R. Cockrill, C. S. Collins, George E. Dodge, Z. P. H. Farr, B. S. Johnson, John McClure, C. B. Moore, John M. Moore, George B. Rose, John M. Rose, U. M. Rose, W. L. Terry, and Samuel W. Williams, of Little Rock; M. L. Bell and W. S. McCain, of Pine Bluff; T. C. McRae, of Prescott; Charles Coffin, of Walnut Ridge; T. P. McGovern, of Jonesboro, and M. T. Sanders, of Helena. M. L. Bell was called to the chair and M. T. Sanders was chosen secretary. Judge U. M. Rose offered a resolution to the effect that the meeting deemed it important and proper to organize a State Bar Association, "to advance the science of jurisprudence, to promote the administration of justice, to uphold the honor of the profession and to encourage cordial intercourse among the members of the bar". After the adoption of the resolution a committee of three was appointed to draft a constitution and by-laws, with instructions to report to an adjourned meeting to be held on May 24, 1882. A call was then issued to the lawyers of the state, inviting them to meet in Little Rock on that date to perfect the organization. The meeting of May 24th was held in the hall of the House of Representatives. All parts of the state were represented, the constitution and by-laws prepared by the committee were adopted, with some slight alterations, and an association with eighty-nine charter members was organized. Marcus



L. Bell was elected president; Sterling R. Cockrill, secretary; George E. Dodge, treasurer, and a vice president was elected for each of the twelve judicial districts, to-wit: 1. W. W. Howes, Forrest City; 2. T. P. McGovern, Jonesboro; 3. Charles Coffin, Walnut Ridge; 4. J. E. Wilson, Yellville; 5. George S. Cunningham, Dardanelle; 6. J. C. England, Lonoke; 7. W. S. Eakin, Perryville, 8. J. N. Crawford, Arkadelphia; 9. T. C. McRae, Prescott; 10. W. T. Wells, Monticello; 11. W. P. Grace, Pine Bluff; 12. Benjamin T. DuVal, Fort Smith.

#### THE STATE HOSPITAL FOR NERVOUS DISEASES OPENED (1883).

The Hospital for Nervous Diseases, commonly called the Insane Asylum, dates its beginning from April 19, 1873, when Governor Elisha Baxter approved an act of the General Assembly providing for the establishment of the "Arkansas State Lunatic Asylum" at Little Rock. The act authorized the governor to appoint five trustees, who should "manage and direct the affairs of the institution and appoint a superintendent". It carried also an appropriation of "not exceeding \$50,000" for the purchase or erection of the necessary buildings. Owing to the unsettled political conditions which led up to and followed the Brooks-Baxter war, the first board of trustees was unable to do more than purchase a site for such an institution. In his last message to the General Assembly, Governor Augustus H. Garland urged the importance of establishing the asylum without delay. Governor William R. Millers, too, discussed the necessity for such an institution in his messages of 1877 and 1879. The General Assembly of 1879 passed an act appropriating \$40,000 for the establishment of the asylum and directing that it be located at Snow Springs, an out-of-the-way place, some four or five miles from the city of Hot Springs. This bill was vetoed by Governor Miller, on the grounds that the appropriation was insufficient and the location undesirable. There the matter rested until February 8, 1881, when Governor Churchill approved an act providing for a levy of a one-mill tax on all the property of the state for two years, and the appropriation of \$150,000



“for the purpose of building, organizing, furnishing and operating an insane asylum, at or near Little Rock”. With a portion of the appropriation immediately available, the trustees went to work and the institution was opened on March 1, 1883.

#### THE FIRST MUNICIPAL WATERWORKS IN ARKANSAS (1884).

In 1884 a waterworks company was organized at Little Rock; a standpipe was erected near the foot of Cross street. After passing through several ownerships, Zeb Ward acquired a controlling interest in the company. In 1886, he began the construction of large reservoirs on the bluff where the reservoirs of the Arkansas Water Company now are, some two miles up the Arkansas from the center of the city, situated on an elevation of about two hundred and fifty feet above the business district. Water was turned on May 4, 1888. The supply is pumped from the Arkansas River into the reservoirs, where it is filtered before being turned into the mains. In 1889 the plant and franchise were purchased by eastern capitalists, who changed the name to the Home Water Company. In 1910 the name was again changed to the Arkansaw Water Company.

#### THE HOLFORD BONDS REPUDIATED (1884).

The General Assembly of 1836, which created the Real Estate Bank, authorized an issue of two million dollars in state bonds in order to provide the bank with the necessary capital. In 1838, another issue of \$500,000 in bonds was authorized to raise capital for a fourth branch of the Real Estate Bank, which branch was to be established at Van Buren. With these latter bonds, the directors on September 7, 1840, through their agent, secured from the North American Trust and Banking Company, of New York City, the sum of \$121,336.59, by depositing the \$500,000 in bonds as security for the repayment of the sum advanced. Whereupon, the North American Trust and Banking Company sold the bonds to James Holford and Company, of London, England, for \$325,000. Then, presently, the North American Trust and Banking Company failed. This brought James Holford to New York, where he began steps to collect the interest already due him,



and to secure himself against loss of the principal he had invested in the bonds of the Real Estate Bank. The State of Arkansas, through Governor Archibald Yell, took the position that it owed, on account of these bonds, only the \$121,336.59, with accrued interest, which sum the Real Estate Bank had received from the North American Trust and Banking Company. This position, which Arkansas held to until the matter was finally disposed of, was based upon the assumption that the Real Estate Bank had only hypothecated or mortgaged the bonds, as the directors claimed, to the North American Trust and Banking Company; that the latter company, if it sold the bonds to Holford, had acted in bad faith; for which the State of Arkansas could not be held either legally or morally accountable. Holford, on the other hand, showed that he had, in effect, bought the bonds outright of the North American Trust and Banking Company for \$325,000. He had, he said, been an innocent purchaser; as such, he was entitled to collect from the State of Arkansas the full amount of the bonds—\$500,000 with interest until the bonds were paid. Eventually the Holford claim was sold to Benjamin D. Whitney, who brought suit in the Pulaski Chancery Court against the Real Estate Bank for the recovery of the face value of the bonds, with interest. The court held that the bonds could not have been lawfully sold for less than their par value, since the Real Estate Bank act declared any such sale illegal and void; but because the bank appropriated to its use the \$121,336.59 advanced upon the bonds, “it is but just to conclude that the bank is bound in equity and good conscience to repay the money with interest, upon a redelivery of the bonds”. Rather than accept such a settlement, Whitney appealed the case to the Supreme Court of Arkansas; which court affirmed the decision of the Chancery Court. When the funding bill was before the General Assembly in 1868, the amount of the \$121,336.59, with accrued interest, was \$334,747. Instead of funding this sum, which would doubtless have met the approval of every honest taxpayer in the state, the authors of the funding measure proposed to have the state assume the payment of the entire \$500,000 in bonds, which, with the interest then due, amounted to \$1,360,000, or over a million dollars more than the courts had decreed that the state



justly owed. The proposition to issue new bonds for the whole amount met with so much apposition that the Holford bonds were held in abeyance for several months, though they were finally funded for \$1,268,000. And at the state election of 1884 the payment of these bonds was repudiated by what is known as the "Fishback Amendment".

#### **BAUXITE DISCOVERED (1887).**

The discovery of bauxite deposits in Arkansas was made by the late Dr. John C. Branner, then state geologist, in June, 1887. He recognized it at several places along the road running south from Little Rock, a little more than a mile south of where the road crosses the Fourche Bayou. Doctor Branner wrote, shortly after his discovery, to a reduction works in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, calling their attention to the nature and extent of the deposits, but failed to interest them. He then made a trip to Syracuse, New York, but with no better success. The first mention in the report of the commissioner of mines, manufactures and agriculture of shipments of bauxite was in 1899, when 5,045 tons were shipped. It is said, however, that there had been several small shipments of the ore made before that time. There are three well defined fields where the ore has been found, viz: The Fourche district, which lies south of the Fourche Bayou and between the Rock Island Railroad and the Pine Bluff division of the Missouri Pacific; the Bryant district, about eighteen miles southwest of Little Rock, in Bryant Township, Saline County; the third is really a part of the Bryant district, being separated from it only by Hurricane Creek, and is almost due east of Benton. The greater portion of the ore comes from the Bryant field, and is shipped from the town of Bauxite, situated on the Rock Island Railroad. The commissioner of mines, manufactures and agriculture, in his report for 1920, says: "More than ninety per cent of all the bauxite produced in the United States is mined in Pulaski and Saline counties and all of the bauxite used in the United States in the manufacture of aluminum in 1919 came from the Arkansas deposits.

#### **THE FIRST ELECTRIC LIGHTS INTRODUCED IN ARKANSAS (1888).**

The first electric lights in Arkansas were installed at Little Rock in September, 1888. The end of that year saw



seventy street lights in operation. This included the four municipal towers, located at Markham and Pulaski streets, Tenth and Bishop streets, Main and Twenty-first streets, and Ninth and Rector streets. In time the towers were discarded and lights installed at nearly every street crossing in the central portion of the city, and at frequent intervals in the other parts. The plant is now operated by the Little Rock Railway and Electric Company.

**THE ARKANSAS CONFEDERATE  
SOLDIERS' HOME ESTABLISHED (1890).**

The Arkansas Confederate Soldiers' Home, for the care of indigent veterans of the War of Secession, was opened December 1, 1890. The movement which resulted in the establishment of the home was started some time before by certain well known Confederate veterans. For the purpose of raising funds by popular subscription, and in order to manage the enterprise effectually, they organized an association of Confederate veterans. In this manner, through the efforts of the association, a fund of \$8,500 was raised. And during the summer of 1890 a tract of some sixty acres of ground, about six miles southeast of Little Rock, was purchased; an old residence on the place was remodeled, and the home formally opened December 1, 1890. On April 1, 1891, Governor James P. Eagle approved an act authorizing the payment of pensions to disabled Confederate soldiers and their widows, and for the levying of a tax to raise the necessary revenue. The same act also provided: "That ten thousand dollars of the fund thus raised shall be and is hereby appropriated annually for the erection and maintenance of a Confederate Home as is now established by the Ex-Confederate Association of Arkansas, which sum shall be paid on the order of the directors of said association. \* \* \* Provided, that no inmate of the said Confederate Home shall be entitled to draw a pension as provided for in this act; Provided further, that no part of the ten thousand dollars here as annually appropriated, shall be used until the said Ex-Confederate Association of Arkansas shall have conveyed to said state the lands belonging to said Ex-Confederate Association with a good and sufficient title."



Thus responsibility for the management and maintenance of the home was taken over by the state. With the first annual appropriation of \$10,000 a new building was erected. It was completed in 1892. In the summer of 1911 the inmates were moved into tents while the entire home was remodeled.

#### THE STATE BANKER'S ASSOCIATION ORGANIZED (1891).

The movement for the organization of a state bankers' association originated with the bankers of Little Rock in the summer of 1891. M. H. Johnson, cashier of the Bank of Little Rock, and Oscar Davis cashier of the German National Bank, sent out letters to the banks of the state requesting those who favored the organization of an association to permit the use of their names in the issue of a call for a meeting for that purpose. Thirty-nine bankers endorsed the plan in letters and their names were signed to a call to meet at the Richelieu Hotel, in Little Rock, on October 20, 1891. There were then only about eighty banks in the state. Representatives from a majority of these banks met at the time and place designated. W. B. Worthen, president of the Association Banks of Little Rock, called the meeting to order and stated its object. The greater part of the first day was spent in discussion, and on October 21st the Arkansas Bankers Association was formally organized by the election of Logan H. Roots, president, and M. H. Johnson, secretary. C. T. Walker, of Little Rock; W. H. Cates, of Jonesboro; B. J. Brown, of Fayetteville; H. G. Allis, of Little Rock; and S. H. Horner, of Helena, were appointed a committee to draft a constitution and by-laws, whereupon, the association adjourned to meet on April 26, 1892. Since its organization the association has been influential in bringing about better business relations between the bankers and business men of the state, and in procuring the enactment of laws for the general improvement of banking conditions.

#### ARKANSAS AT THE COLUMBIAN EXPOSITION (1893).

The World's Columbian Exposition, at Chicago in 1893, held in celebration of the 400th anniversary of the discovery of America, surpassed in magnificence all previous expositions.



The General Assembly of Arkansas, in the session of 1891, failed to appropriate money for any exhibit, but a number of progressive citizens took the preliminary steps in December, 1891, to have the state properly represented. Wherefore, a joint stock company was formed to raise funds for the purpose. This company, known as the "Arkansas World's Fair Association", raised a sufficient sum of money to erect a building at Chicago. It was 66 by 92 feet, two stories high. In the center of the rotunda was placed an imitation fountain of Hot Springs crystals which was lighted by electricity. A few months before the meeting of the General Assembly of 1893, the association offered to present to the state the building and the exhibits already collected, if the Legislature would make proper provisions for the State's representation at the exposition. The Legislature accepted the offer and appropriated \$15,000 for the purpose of arranging and taking care of the exhibits. The Legislature further authorized the commissioner of mines, manufactures and agriculture to loan the permanent exhibit of the department to the world's fair commissioners, and to co-operate with them in the effort to have Arkansas well represented. Provision for an educational exhibit were made, which was conducted by the superintendent of public instruction. Altogether, the exhibits were the greatest ever made by the state up to that time. Forty-two awards were granted to the educational exhibit; seven for apples in the horticultural department; three for cotton in the agricultural department, and Arkansas received a wide advertisement for the high character of its exhibit in general.

#### THE ARKANSAS DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION ORGANIZED (1893).

The Daughters of the American Revolution organized their first chapter in Arkansas at Little Rock in December, 1893, with twelve charter members. Mrs. W. A. Cantrell was the first state regent. The first state conference was held at the Hotel Marion in Little Rock February 22, 1909. At that time there were but four chapters in the state. The work of the state conference stimulated an interest in the society and during the next year eight new chapters were organized. Since then there has been a steady growth of the society in



the state. All the chapters have contributed liberally to the national memorial hall fund. They aided in the establishment of public libraries, the collection and preservation of historical memorials, documents, and what not.

**ARKANSAS BONDS BOUGHT BY THE UNITED STATES  
FOR THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION REPAID (1895).**

When the Real Estate Bank was established, in 1836, the United States, as trustee of the Smithsonian Institution, bought with funds of the institution 500 of the bonds, maturing on October 26, 1861, and 38 other bonds, maturing on January 1, 1868. And, as trustee of the Chickasaw fund, the United States invested \$90,000 of that fund in Arkansas state bonds. On January 1, 1874, the balance due on these bonds, principal and interest, was funded into 250 new bonds, of \$1,000 each bearing interest at the rate of six per cent per annum. The United States had invested \$3,000 of the Chickasaw orphan funds in bonds issued by the state for the benefit of the Real Estate Bank. These several bond purchases, with interest due, were an unsettled claim against Arkansas for nearly sixty years. On the other hand, the State of Arkansas had a valid claim against the United States for five per cent of the proceeds arising from the sale of public lands within the state; for certain tracts of swamp, internal improvement and indemnity school lands which had been granted the state by acts of Congress, but to which the state had never been given a clear title; and for lands patented to the state and afterwards sold by the United States, or allowed to be entered under the general land laws. By an act of the General Assembly, approved April 8, 1889, the governor was directed to undertake to negotiate a settlement of these sundry claims and counter claims. In 1893 Governor Fishback presented claims against the United States aggregating \$2,161,067.71. And on August 4, 1894, the President approved an act of Congress conferring power on the Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary of the Interior to effect an adjustment of the differences. A commission, representing the United States, was appointed to visit Arkansas and report on the value of the lands claimed by the state. The report of the commission,



which the United States accepted, allowed Arkansas, as owing to it by the United States, a total of \$1,451,231.61. Governor James P. Clarke, acting for the State of Arkansas, agreed to allow, as owing by the state to the United States, a total of \$1,611,803.61. And upon this basis a compromise was effected February 23, 1895. This left a balance of \$160,572 due the United States. To adjust this balance Governor Clarke agreed to give to the United States \$572 in cash within thirty days and 160 bonds for \$1,000 each, payable on January 1, 1900, with interest at the rate of six per cent per annum. The settlement was accepted by the General Assembly in a concurrent resolution adopted on February 27, 1895.

#### THE PEARL INDUSTRY OF ARKANSAS (1895).

It was not until about 1895 that the first pearls possessed of rare quality and high commercial value, which grow in the many streams and lakes of eastern Arkansas, were discovered. The first discoveries were made by fishermen, it seems, in a lake near the town of Bald Knob. Nearer than this, it is, perhaps not possible to say when, or by whom, the first Arkansas pearls were found. However, that James O'Hara of Memphis, Tennessee, was the first person to engage in the business of buying and selling Arkansas pearls, there seems no doubt.

Native fishermen had learned—taught not unlikely by tradition handed down from one generation to another—that the meat of the mussel, fresh from the shell, furnished, where the mussel is found, the most plentiful and effective supply of fisherman's bait to be had. As such, mussel meat is said to be effective for catching game fish of almost every kind. Thus it happened that some one, in the process of gathering and cutting up the flesh of mussels for bait, saw in the round, shiny, pebble-like objects often found in the meat, or folds, of the mussel the beauty of a gem, and guessed it a thing of real commercial value.

Stories, naturally enough, of the first discoveries of the Arkansas mussel as the mother of precious pearls spread quickly the country round-about, especially among the fishermen accustomed to use mussel meat for bait. And then, shortly, as enterprising fishermen everywhere got wind of the



matter, a variety of pearls were exploited, of which an occasional lucky find was sold for an astonishingly high price. Thus the excitement grew, until people by hundreds and thousands turned to the business of amateur pearl fishing. Indeed, the possibilities of the business stirred the popular imagination like the discovery of a new gold field. In the mad scramble to exploit the precious jewels, as an easy means to achieve quick wealth, the shallow waters of the lakes and streams of eastern Arkansas fairly swarmed with people from the cities and towns and the country round; who, for the moment, had taken to adventure. This sort of thing was continued several years; until the mussel had been, for the most part, destroyed in all the shallow waters of the streams. And during that period, which embraced the ten years from about 1895 until 1905, the pearl fishing industry, as a money-making enterprise, grew to its greatest proportions. Since then, though many valuable pearls have been, and are still being found, the industry has suffered a marked decline in volume and the amount of the profits realized, owing to the fact that now only those possessed of the equipment necessary for deep water fishing can profitably engage in the business of pearl fishing.

The mussel, which is a fresh water variety of the oyster family, is most plentiful, as already indicated, in the rivers and lakes of eastern Arkansas. Accordingly, pearl fishing has proven most profitable in such rivers as the White, the Black, Little Red, St. Francis, the Ouachita and perhaps, the lower reaches of the Arkansas. Of these, the White, it seems, has produced the greatest number of precious pearls. The towns most benefited by the traffic of the industry, during the years that the business was yielding its greatest profits, were Clarendon, Black Rock, DuVall's Bluff, Newport and Corning. And during those years, from about 1895 until 1905, the growth of the population and the visible increase of wealth in all these towns were quite considerable.

The fresh water pearls of Arkansas are found, for the most part, embedded in the folds of the meat of the mussel. Also, the pearl seems usually to grow in that part of the body of the mussel contained in the smaller end of the shell. As a rule,



the pearl itself is wholly apart from and unattached to the shell. Occasionally, however, they are to be found in other parts of the mussel, or even grown to the shell itself.

Of the thousands of pearls taken from the streams and lakes of Arkansas, the greater number, naturally, are of comparatively small value; which is not to say, of course, that many fine pearls, and not a few of the finest, have been found from time to time. The fineness of a pearl is estimated according to a more or less arbitrary standard of perfection. But in order to qualify as perfect a pearl must possess at least three qualities of perfection: it must be symmetrical in form; must have a perfectly smooth surface, and a deep, brilliant luster. The color also is important; of which there are many different shades and varieties to be seen in the pearls of Arkansas. The white, sea green and peach pink are the colors most prized. Next to these, the colors most admired, perhaps, are black and cherry-red. And a pearl of any one of these colors, perfectly round, having a brilliant luster and being of goodly size is, perhaps of all jewels, that most highly esteemed. Such pearls, of which of course but few are known to exist, are sold for almost fabulous sums.

After the rare, perfect pearl, what is known as the button pearl, so-called because of its button-like shape, is most highly prized. These are found in the form, not infrequently, of a half sphere. The oval, or egg-shaped, pearl ranks third in value. All of these finer varieties are sold by the grain, at prices from five to a hundred dollars or more, the grain. Besides these, there are pearls of all sorts of shapes and sizes, known as slugs, rosebuds, broaques and what not. In all such the color and luster are important, as fixing the value. Many such are sold by the piece, and profitably, when they are of shapes and sizes suitable for working up into stick pins and other kinds of jewelry. Real pearls, of course, are never cut.

No, one, it seems, can be quite certain of a true explanation of the origin, or growth of pearls. But the most reasonable and plausible theory of the matter, and one which those most familiar with the subject accept as probably correct, is as follows: The pearl, according to this view, is an abnormal



growth. That is to say, in the perfectly developed mussel, in the mussel without blemish and true to its kind, pearls perhaps are never found. Accordingly, the pearl is supposed to form only as a consequence, in the first place, of an accident, or injury, to the mussel which produces the pearl. In a fold of the mussel's flesh, where, for example, the pearl is later found, there was once, presumably, but a grain of sand or perhaps some other small, hard substance; which, by chance, found lodgment and became too firmly fastened in the flesh for the mussel to remove it. Accordingly, due to contractions of the mussel's body, either in its movement from place to place or due to the efforts of the mussel to remove the sand, the resulting friction caused an inflamed, or sore spot to form. Whereupon, in the process of healing the sore, or injured part, a saliva-like fluid was secreted; which secretion, by degrees, absorbed, or dissolved, the grain of sand but, in the course of the healing and dissolving process, left a deposit of lime and what not compounded into the substance of pearl. Thus the formation, or growth, of the pearl, is supposed to be perfected by causes and processes not unlike those which, in an animal of another sort, had produced a calloused spot, or "corn".

During the period of formation, the pearly mass is, apparently, soft and pliable like plastic clay. Thus, if by any chance the pearl is mashed before the hardening process is complete, the pearl is left deformed and of irregular shape, according to the degree and character of the pressure. For example, if the pearl is formed in a position which causes it to press against the shell of the mussel, what might have been, but for such pressure, a perfectly symmetrical pearl is grown in the form of a half-sphere.

In the form of its structure, the pearl is like an onion. It is built up in layers, one upon another. If for any reason the surface of a pearl loses its luster, which it is likely to do once the outer layer is cracked, or broken, it is possible to remove the outer layer. And, when carefully done, except for the loss of weight and bulk, the beauty, or quality, of the original pearl may be, by such an operation, entirely restored. Thus it



will be understood why, as already stated, real pearls are never cut, as diamonds and other jewels are, in order to fashion them according to the popular fancy.

In the early days of pearl fishing in Arkansas, the profits of several dealers, especially at Memphis, amounted to hundreds of thousands of dollars, in the course of a dozen, or fifteen, years. During those years, in the summer months after they had "laid by" their crops, the farmers of eastern and northeastern Arkansas, by the hundreds, camped for weeks at a time along the rivers and near the lakes and engaged regularly in the business of pearl fishing. "These people", as witnessed by one writer who was upon the ground at the time and engaged in the traffic of buying and selling pearls, "had, of course, but little idea of the true commercial value of gems they discovered. Frequently pearls, that were sold by the farmer, or other amateur fisherman, at prices from fifty cents to five dollars to speculators, were, by the latter, re-sold at a profit of from five dollars to five hundred dollars the pearl.

"For example", continues the story as told by this writer, "a jeweler once came into my office with a pearl which he offered to sell me for the sum of \$24.50. After examining the pearl, I bought it of him and at the price he made me. Through a friend, I sold it a few days later to a cotton buyer in an Arkansas town for \$150.00. The cotton buyer afterwards took it to Liverpool, England, where he disposed of it for the enormous sum of \$950.00. And I have the jeweler's word for it, the same of whom I bought the pearl for \$24.50, that he had given a negro fifty cents for it. Many a similar story might be told of the profits made by speculators, in the early days of amateur pearl fishing in Arkansas."

As an outgrowth, or incident, of the pearl fishing enterprise, there grew up eventually another extensive and profitable industry in the manufacture of buttons from the shells of the mussel. It is commonly estimated that pearls are found, upon an average, at the ratio of one pearl to every seven hundred mussels taken from the White and, perhaps, other rivers. Thus pearl fishing, under present conditions, which requires a quite considerable outlay of capital in boats and

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dredges and labor, would afford the fishermen but little, if any, profit but for the development and maintenance of the button industry. The latter, therefore, has not only saved the pearl fishing business from abandonment, perhaps for the most part, but has become itself also an enterprise affording profitable employment to thousands of people in many of the river towns of eastern Arkansas.

The pearl fishermen, as they gather and open the shells in search of pearls, deposit the shells at convenient points along the rivers; whence, later, they are loaded on to barges, which deliver them to the button factories. The factories pay from fifteen to twenty dollars a ton for shells. And one man with fairly effective equipment for pearl fishing can often gather as many as fifteen hundred pounds of shell in a day.

At the button factories, the shells are assorted into grades according to the sizes. And then the shells are ready to be cut into forms for buttons. The largest shells are cut for extra-large buttons; the smaller shells, for smaller buttons, and so on accordingly as the shells are assorted and graded. The buttons, as they come from the hands of the cutter, are still "in the rough", far from finished. Cutters are paid for their part of the work, ordinarily, by the piece. Seven cents a gross is, perhaps, the average rate of pay for cutting the rough forms. At such a rate, experienced cutters earn from twelve to fifteen dollars a week.

The button factories of Arkansas do not, for the most part, it seems, attempt to turn out the finished product. Accordingly, the rough unfinished forms are sold and shipped to other factories in the North and East, where the process of manufacture is completed. The largest and most successful of the button cutting factories of Arkansas is situated at DuVall's Bluff.

What is left of the shells, in the form of shell scraps unfit for buttons, is not infrequently sold at a dollar, more or less, the ton, as material for the surfacing of roads. Sometimes, this refuse product is also ground and sold profitably as chicken feed.



**UNITED DAUGHTERS OF THE CONFEDERACY (1896).**

The United Daughters of the Confederacy date their beginning in Arkansas from a meeting held at Hope in March, 1896, when Pat Clebourne Chapter was organized with Mrs. C. A. Forney as president. Before the close of the year three other chapters were organized. They were: Mary Lee, at Van Buren; Memorial, at Little Rock, and Hot Springs chapter. In May, 1905, the statue, "The Defense of the Flag", on the Capitol grounds, was unveiled. The Daughters of the Confederacy were active in procuring funds for the erection of this statue, as well as for the "Mothers' Monument", also located on the capitol grounds. The U. D. C. have also been influential in the erection of monuments at Fort Smith, Helena, Van Buren and other towns, and have rendered substantial aid to the Confederate Soldiers' Home. Through the work of the society many interesting and valuable relics of the war have been collected and preserved.

**THE ARKANSAS FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS FORMED (1897).**

In 1897 the State Federation of Women's Clubs was formed at Little Rock. Mrs. W. C. Ratcliffe was elected the first president. During the early years of the federation the principal work of the clubs was of a literary character. Then such subjects as art, music, library extension, education, home economics, conservation, health, and even politics came to be considered, broadening the scope of club work and adding to their usefulness. For the advancement of local needs and to promote greater sociability—more concert of action—the state has been divided by the federation into six districts, each of which bears the name of the principal city or town lying within its boundaries, viz: Camden, Forrest City, Fort Smith, Harrison, Little Rock and Pine Bluff. Each district has a chairman, who keeps in touch with the state chairman, and thus the state work is kept before each district, in order that the effort in behalf of any movement may be uniform all over the state. Annual meetings are held and these are invariably well attended. In 1918 the meeting of the National Federation of Women's Clubs was held at Hot Springs. This was made



possible by the united effort of the clubs belonging to the Arkansas Federation. Over 1,200 delegates attended the national meeting and the women returned to their homes with a better opinion of Arkansas as a state and loud in their praises of Arkansas hospitality.

#### ARKANSAS IN THE SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR (1898).

The United States Battleship Maine was blown up in Havana Harbor February 15, 1898. As a result of this unfortunate affair public sentiment in the United States, which was already deeply incensed against Spain because of the latter's long-continued tyrannical oppression of Cuba, demanded that the United States punish Spain and free Cuba. The public soon became settled in the conviction that the Maine had been blown up at the instance of Spanish authorities. For such a deliberate outrage nothing less than a declaration of war was tolerable. Accordingly, President William McKinley sent a message to Congress on April 11, in which he said: "In the name of humanity, in the name of civilization, in behalf of endangered American interests, which give us the right and the duty to speak and to act, the war in Cuba must stop". Congress adopted resolutions April 18, which amounted to a declaration of war, and April 23 the President issued his proclamation calling for 125,000 volunteers. War was actually declared by Congress on April 25, 1898. And on that very day Governor Dan W. Jones received information from Washington that Arkansas was expected to furnish, of the 125,000 volunteers called for, two regiments of infantry. Since there were not two regiments of the Arkansas National Guard well enough organized and equipped to be mustered into service as units, Governor Jones called for volunteers for two new regiments. In his call, the governor said: "Little Rock, Arkansas, having been designated as the place of rendezvous by the Secretary of War of the two regiments of infantry called from Arkansas to enlist as United States volunteers, the place of camp is hereby fixed at the corner of College Avenue and Seventeenth Street, in said city, and designated as 'Camp Dodge', a tribute of respect to the late Dr. Roderick Dodge, a long and honored resident of the State, to whose estate the site of the



camp belongs, and whose heirs have courteously donated the use of the same for this purpose." This First Arkansas Volunteer Infantry was mustered in on May 18th for two years, "unless sooner discharged", with Elias Chandler as colonel; John M. Dungan, lieutenant-colonel; Greenfield Quarles and Clement R. Schaer, majors. Soon after the regiment was mustered in it was ordered to Camp Thomas, Chickamauga Park, Georgia, where it remained until late in September, when it was ordered to return to Arkansas. It was mustered out at Fort Logan H. Roots on October 25, 1898. The Second Arkansas Volunteer Infantry was mustered in May 25, 1898, with the following regimental officers: Virgil Y. Cook, colonel; DeRosey C. Cabell, lieutenant-colonel; Claude H. Sayle and James J. Johnson, majors. On the last day of May, 1898, the regiment arrived at Camp Thomas, Chickamauga Park, Georgia, where it was assigned to the Second Brigade, Second Division, Third Army Corps, the First Arkansas having arrived three days earlier and been assigned to the First Brigade of the same division and corps. On September 9, 1898, the Second Regiment was ordered to Camp Shipp, Anniston, Alabama, where it remained until February 25, 1899, when it was mustered out. The Spanish-American War was formally ended December 10, 1898, by the Treaty of Paris.

#### THE COLONIAL DAMES OF AMERICA (1898).

The Colonial Dames of Arkansas was incorporated February 26, 1898. Since that time the Society has been influential in preservation of the old state house and grounds in their original form, and has placed in the new State Capitol a tablet commemorating the planting of the first cross on Arkansas soil by De Soto in 1541. The society also presented to the Little Rock High School an engraving of Martha Washington made from Gilbert Stuart's portrait. It has also urged a general observance of "Flag Day" each year, and otherwise given encouragement to worthy patriotic undertakings.

#### THE NEW STATE CAPITOL—CORNER STONE LAID (1900).

Governor Dan. W. Jones approved April 17, 1899, an act of the General Assembly providing for the erection of a



new state capitol building, on the grounds then occupied by the state penitentiary, and appropriating \$1,000,000 for the purpose. The act provided for the appointment by the governor of six commissioners—one from each congressional district—to be known as the "State Capitol Commission." Governor Jones appointed J. M. Levesque, of Cross County; Charles Gordon Newman, of Jefferson; A. H. Carrigan, of Hempstead; George W. Murphy, of Pulaski; George W. Donaghey, of Faulkner, and Robert M. Hancock, of Baxter. This board organized May 10, 1899. The architect's plans submitted by George R. Mann were selected and the contract for the construction was awarded to Caldwell & Drake, of Columbus, Ohio. A report of this commission at the close of the year 1900 shows that the foundation of the building was completed. The corner-stone was laid November 27, 1900, by the Arkansas Grand Lodge of Freemasons. Governor Jeff Davis was opposed to the location of the new capitol, and during the six years he was in office the work of construction proceeded but slowly. Owing to the illness of Governor John S. Little, who came into office in January, 1907, not much progress was made during his term. In the primary campaign of 1908 George W. Donaghey, a member of the commission, made his race for governor on the issue that the immediate completion of the capitol was of paramount importance. He was nominated and elected, and as soon as he was inaugurated he set to work to carry out his ideas. The Arkansas Gazette of December 25, 1910, said: "The Capitol Commission's Christmas gift to the State of Arkansas this year will be the magnificent new state capitol, that stands like the Parthenon of old on the eminence at the western extremity of Fifth Street. The writer was present when the first spade of dirt was thrown, ten years ago, on which occasion a number of eloquent speeches were made commending the great undertaking of the state. \* \* \* Those ten years have marked a strange ebb and flow of politics in this state, at which time the building has stood like an endangered ship in the storm, but where the first spade of dirt was thrown ten years ago stands the creation that was then but a castle in the air. It cost more than was anticipated, in money, time, trouble and hard feeling, but it is now an accomplished fact, and there should be no more state capitol



sentiment in Arkansas history for some years to come. \* \* \* Many men have worked for the completion of the new state capitol building, but among those who have labored intelligently none has devoted more time and trouble to the enterprise than his excellency, Governor George W. Donaghey, a practical builder and a man of the people. No man in Arkansas could have been better fitted for the position he was called to assume than Governor Donaghey, for while any strong, intellectual man might hope to fulfil the duties of governor of this state, Governor Donaghey was a renowned contractor as well, and the desire to give the people of Arkansas a new state capitol that would stand the ravages of time lay next to his heart. He will be the first governor to establish office in the new building."

#### THE APPLE BLOSSOM MADE THE STATE FLOWER (1901).

The General Assembly by "Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 1", passed January 30, 1901, adopted the Apple Blossom as the state flower. The resolution is as follows:

Whereas, Most of the states have by resolution declared what should be their state floral emblem; and

Whereas, Arkansas has not by resolution of the General Assembly declared what is her floral emblem; be it therefore

Resolved by both houses of the General Assembly, that the "Apple Blossom" be declared the state floral emblem of Arkansas.

#### NATURAL GAS DISCOVERED (1901).

There are two known natural gas fields in Arkansas—one in the northwestern part, embracing Crawford, Scott and Sebastian counties, and the other in Union County and probably some of the adjoining counties. The first gas well in the state was drilled on the Massard Prairie, south of Fort Smith, in 1901. Subsequent tests have demonstrated that the northwestern field extends from the vicinity of Alma, Crawford County, to Poteau, Oklahoma. The daily production of gas in this field, from wells in operation in 1919, was 200,000,000 cubic feet. One well has a daily record of 24,000,000 cubic feet and is one of the largest in the Southwest. Pipe lines have



been laid to the nearby cities and thousands of homes are supplied with fuel for cooking and heating purposes. The public utilities of Fort Smith and Van Buren, as well as the coal mines in the vicinity, are operated with power generated by natural gas, and a number of manufacturing concerns have availed themselves of the cheap fuel. In the southern field, gas was discovered near El Dorado late in the year 1920 by the Constantine Refining Company, who were prospecting for oil. The initial flow at this well was heavy enough to warrant the belief that a gas field could be developed, which would equal that in the northwestern part of the state. Up to July, 1921, five other gas wells had been found in this field. The gas has been piped to El Dorado, where it is used for domestic and manufacturing purposes.

#### THE ARKANSAS HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION FORMED (1903).

During the winter and spring of 1903, Dr. John Hugh Reynolds, then professor of history in the University of Arkansas, gave some lectures on Arkansas history to the literary societies of the University. This led to the organization in June, 1903, of the Arkansas Historical Society, at Fayetteville, by the students of the University. During the summer circulars were distributed and a few of the students made some historical research in their respective counties. On December 18, 1903, the society was reorganized on a broader basis, with James K. Jones, president; John H. Reynolds, secretary; R. J. Wilson, treasurer. A change in the name was also made, the word "association" being substituted for "society." The constitution adopted declared the objects of the Association to be: "1. To prepare an inventory of all source material for the history of Arkansas. 2. To collect said material, either at the University or the state capital. 3. To encourage, by issuing publications, the study and the writing of all phases of the state's history." As secretary of the association, Dr. Reynolds worked industriously to carry out the aims as stated in the constitution. Notwithstanding his persistent efforts and the friendly support of the newspapers, the membership of the Association did not grow as had been anticipated, and the organization was without sufficient funds to publish the



results of its research. In this emergency it was decided to appeal to the General Assembly. Accordingly, an act was passed at the session of 1905, the provisions of which were as follows: The president of the Association was authorized to appoint five persons from the active membership of the Historical Association, to constitute a commission, with the duty to supervise and direct the printing of the first volume of the publications of the Association, and to ascertain the location and state of preservation of all extant sources of information concerning the history of Arkansas. Under the provisions of this act, the Arkansas Historical Association published its first volume of reports. The act of 1905 was temporary in character and provided for the publication of but one volume. But on May 28, 1907, the governor approved another act continuing the work of the Association and appropriating \$1,600 to aid in printing a second volume of publications. A second volume was accordingly published in 1908. Volumes three and four have since been published.

#### ARKANSAS AT THE LOUISIANA PURCHASE EXPOSITION (1904).

To commemorate the centenary of the Louisiana Purchase, an industrial exposition on a gigantic scale was planned for St. Louis in 1904. The General Assembly of Arkansas appropriated in 1901 \$30,000 for an exhibit of the state's products and resources. An appropriate building was erected upon the exposition grounds and the work of gathering materials for a display that would out-rival all previous efforts was commenced. The Legislature of 1903 made an additional appropriation of \$50,000, making a total of \$80,000, a sum sufficient to place Arkansas on a footing equal to that of the other states. The superintendent of public instruction collected specimens of class work done in the public schools, photographs of a large number of school buildings etc., and the agricultural, mineral and manufactured products of the state received many flattering comments from the visitors to the exposition. September 22, 1904, was Arkansas Day. As in previous competitive exhibitions, Arkansas cotton, fruits and mineral display were awarded prizes for their excellence.



**THE BOYS INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL ESTABLISHED (1905).**

On April 25, Governor Davis approved an act providing for the establishment of a "State Reform School, for the discipline, education, employment and reformation of convicts under the age of eighteen years". The act also provided that white and colored inmates should be kept in separate quarters, and that the female convicts should be kept to themselves. As thus established, the institution was for both sexes and was placed under the management of the penitentiary board. An appropriation of \$30,000 was made for the purchase of a site and the erection of buildings. A site a few miles west of Little Rock was purchased, a three-story brick building erected, and the school was opened in the fall of 1906. "The Arkansas Gazette" of August 23, 1908, said: "The Reform School is located about four miles from the end of the Highland Park car line. It consists of about two hundred acres of land, which is said to be of about as poor a variety as can be found in Arkansas. That such an institution was located on such unfertile ground is deplored by nearly everyone who visits the institution and who can imagine what could be done by such a school of boys upon rich soil". In 1915 the probation officers of Jefferson and Pulaski counties prepared a bill for the removal of the school to a good farm. This bill was approved by the County Judges Association and the State Federation of Labor. It was passed by the General Assembly, but was vetoed by Governor Geo. W. Hays on the grounds of economy. At the next session of the General Assembly, a similar bill was passed and was approved by Governor Charles H. Brough. Up to this time the institution had been under the control of the penitentiary board and was regarded as a penal institution. The act of 1917 changed the name to the "Boys Industrial School of the State of Arkansas" and provided for a board of managers, composed of three men and two women.

**THE UNITED STATES DAUGHTERS OF 1812 (1905).**

In the latter part of 1905 Mrs. Herman Wilmans, of Newport, was appointed organizing president of Arkansas by the president of the national society of the Daughters of 1812. Mrs. Wilmans drew up the state by-laws, which were



approved by the national executive board, and the Arkansas State Society was formally organized with eight charter members. Nicholas Headington Chapter—the first in the state—was organized at Little Rock October 24, 1908; John Craig Dodds Chapter, Batesville, March 25, 1910; Simon Bradford Chapter, Pine Bluff September 19, 1911, and Chalmette Chapter, Texarkana, November 20, 1913. On March 28, 1914, the first state council met in Little Rock. At that time there were 108 members in the state, ninety of whom were present at the meeting.

#### DIAMONDS DISCOVERED IN ARKANSAS (1906).

On August 1, 1906, John W. Huddleson picked up on his farm, near the mouth of Prairie Creek and about two and a half miles southeast of Murfreesboro, Pike County, two glittering pebbles. These he sent to Charles S. Stiff, founder of the firm of Charles S. Stiff & Company, Jewelers, of Little Rock, who pronounced them genuine diamonds. The stones were later sent to New York, where they were examined by experts and cut and polished by the well known firm of Tiffany & Company. In the rough, these first two diamonds weighed about three carats each. A company was shortly formed to prospect for diamonds and John T. Fuller, a mining engineer, who had been connected with the De Beers Company, of South Africa, was employed to examine the Pike County field and report. Mr. Fuller said in his report that "the diamond-bearing rock occurs in South Africa in what is there locally known as a 'pipe', which is the neck, or vent, of an old volcano, filled up solid with diamond-bearing rock. This rock is technically known as peridotite, a rock of bluish green color, and known in Africa as Kimberlite, or more popularly as blue ground. That the diamond-bearing rock found on your property in Pike county is peridotite is unquestioned. That it occurs on the property in a 'pipe' similar to its occurrences in South Africa has been, to my mind, sufficiently demonstrated". In 1908 the Arkansas Diamond Company was organized with an authorized capital stock of \$1,000,000, for the thorough development of the diamond field. A modern reduction plant was erected and up to 1920 over five thousand



diamonds had been taken from the small area covered by the peridotite formation. The largest of these diamonds weighed eighteen carats and another weighed eleven carats. There are four small areas of the peridotite and the Kimberlite Diamond Company is also operating in the field.

#### AN ARKANSAN APPOINTED AMBASSADOR TO THE HAGUE PEACE CONFERENCE (1907).

President Theodore Roosevelt paid a visit to Little Rock and Arkansas in 1905. At Little Rock, in the City Park, he addressed an audience of several thousand people on October 25. A luncheon was given in his honor at the Scottish Rite Consistory. On the latter occasion, the late Judge U. M. Rose responded to the toast "The President of the United States." When, in 1907, it fell to the lot of Mr. Roosevelt to choose an ambassador to represent the United States at the second Hague Peace Conference, he appointed Judge Rose a member of the commission. In a "Memoir" of his father, George B. Rose says: "Early in 1907 [October, 1905] Mr. Roosevelt, then president of the United States, passed through Little Rock. At a luncheon given to him Judge Rose responded to a toast in his honor. This made so favorable an impression upon Mr. Roosevelt that he appointed Judge Rose an ambassador to the Hague Peace Conference of that year, along with Mr. Jos. H. Choate and General Horace Porter. From the day of his appointment Judge Rose devoted his whole time to the study of international law, so that when the conference assembled he was far better equipped than most of the delegates. Added to this was his perfect mastery of the French language; and these, with the charm of manner that made him a natural diplomat, gave him a conspicuous position in that distinguished gathering."

#### THE ARKANSAS HISTORY COMMISSION ESTABLISHED (1909).

The Arkansas Historical Association was instrumental in effecting the establishment of the Arkansas History Commission as a permanent state department of public archives and history. The Association, in a report made to the governor on September 1, 1908, recommended that an expert archivist be



employed to superintend the removal of the records and papers from the old capitol to the new; that in the place of the special commission, as representing the Association, a Commission to be a permanent department of the state be created. The report emphasized the fact that, owing to the probable removal of the state government shortly to the new state capitol, "A failure to provide for the permanent organization of state historical work at the next session of the General Assembly would probably mean that Arkansas history would sustain a greater loss in the next two years than it has in any other quarter of a century." Under the leadership of Dr. John Hugh Reynolds, the Association followed up its recommendations to the governor with a systematic campaign of agitation to shape public opinion favorable to the establishment of a permanent state department of history and archives. Thus the act creating the Arkansas History Commission was passed and approved by Governor Geo. W. Donaghey May 31, 1909. The said act provided: 1. That the headquarters of the Commission should be in the new state capitol. 2. That the said Commission should be an honorary board of trustees composed of the chief justice of the Supreme Court, the presidents of the University of Arkansas and the State Normal School, and six other persons appointed by the governor. 3. That at the first meeting of the Commission the six appointive members should by lot divide themselves into six classes, whose terms of service should be two, four, six, eight ten and twelve years, respectively, after which the term of such appointees should be twelve years. 4. That a secretary be employed, as director of the department, at a salary of \$1,800 per year, whose duty it should be to carry out the provisions of the act, under the rules and regulations laid down by the Commission. 5. That all books, pamphlets, documents, etc., collected by the Commission should forever remain the property of the state. The board of commissioners, as at first constituted, was composed of E. A. McCulloch, chief justice; John N. Tillman, president of the University of Arkansas; J. J. Doyne, president of the State Normal School; A. C. Millar, of Little Rock; James H. Berry, of Bentonville; H. B. McKenzie, of Prescott; J. F. Mayes, of Fort Smith; Miss Clara B. Eno, of Van Buren, and J. H. Reynolds, of Fayetteville. A bill



making an appropriation for the secretary's salary was passed by the General Assembly of 1911, but it was vetoed by the governor. At a meeting of the board on August 24, 1911, the following preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted.

"Whereas, the recent veto of the salary item of the secretary of the Arkansas History Commission renders the payment of said salary impossible until another appropriation is made; and

"Whereas, Dallas T. Herndon, of Georgia, a man well qualified for the secretaryship, has agreed to accept the office, trusting to the good faith of the next legislature to reimburse him, on condition that the Commission on its part, while assuming no financial liability, agree to recommend to the next General Assembly an appropriation to cover said salary:

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Arkansas History Commission hereby elect Dallas Tabor Herndon secretary on the conditions named above."

Of the work accomplished in the upbuilding of the department since 1911, The Arkansas Gazette in its Centennial Edition of November 20, 1919, says: "Mr. Herndon has collected hundreds of volumes of old newspaper files and quantities of historical documents, including thousands of old letters and papers that belonged to men who have been prominent in the state's affairs. He has also made bibliographies of all written history of the state, has compiled information concerning many thousands of persons who have lived in Arkansas and had a part in its history, and has made rosters of the soldiers from Arkansas in the Mexican War and the Civil War, besides building up a museum of Arkansas history. In general, he has devoted himself to organizing the state's historical sources into a system of public archives. The state owes to his faithful labors the gratifying progress that has been made in the work of preserving its eventful history."

#### THE TUBERCULOSIS SANITARIUM FOUNDED (1909).

This institution was created by an act of the General Assembly approved May 31, 1909. An appropriation of \$50,000 for a site and buildings and \$30,000 for maintenance



during the ensuing two years was made. Control of the sanitarium was placed in the hands of a board of trustees, to consist of six persons appointed by the governor, two of whom were to be practicing physicians. A site was selected on a ridge in the foothills of the Magazine Mountains, about four miles southeast of Booneville, at an elevation of about one thousand feet above sea level. The General Assembly has been consistently liberal in its biennial appropriations of funds for the maintenance of the institution.

#### THE ARKANSAS STATE FLAG ADOPTED (1913).

Governor Joe T. Robinson approved February 26, 1913, "Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 11", adopting an official state flag. The movement for a state flag began early in the year 1912, when the Pine Bluff Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, voted to present the new Battleship Arkansas with a stand of colors, consisting of a United States flag, a naval battalion flag and an Arkansas state flag. The regent of the chapter appointed a committee to obtain a copy of the state's official flag. This committee wrote to the secretary of state, who replied that Arkansas had no official flag. The committee then prepared and published in the leading newspapers of the state an article asking artists and designers—especially those living in Arkansas—to submit designs for a state flag to a committee which would select the one deemed most appropriate. All designs were to be sent to the secretary of state, who was authorized to name the committee of selection. The first committee met at the Hotel Marion, in Little Rock, early in January, 1913, but failed to select a design. A second committee, from sixty-five designs submitted, selected the one made by Miss Willie K. Hocker, of Pine Bluff. The flag is a rectangular field of red, on which is placed a large white diamond, bordered by a wide band of blue—national colors. Across the diamond is the word 'Arkansas' and three blue stars, one above, two below the word. On the blue band are placed twenty-five stars. The designer's explanation of the reasons for the design shows that it was meant to typify a number of important events in Arkansas history. The national colors were used because



Arkansas is one of the United States. The three blue stars upon the white diamond represent the three nations—France, Spain and the United States—which have successively exercised dominion over Arkansas; they also indicate that Arkansas was the third state to be erected in the territory acquired by the Louisiana Purchase. The twenty-five stars in the blue band show that Arkansas was the twenty-fifth state in the order of admission into the Union. It came into the Union with Michigan, which fact is shown by the two stars close together at the lower angle of the band. The diamond was selected because Arkansas has the only known diamond bearing deposits in the United States.

The General Assembly of 1923 added another blue star to the field of the white diamond, as typical of the dominion of the Confederate States Government, from 1861 to 1865. In 1924, the legislature amended the flag by the following resolution for the purpose of readjusting the design of the flag:

Whereas, the present arrangement of the stars in the State Flag of Arkansas, as changed by House Concurrent Resolution No. 4 of 1923, destroys the meaning of the three original stars, and the arrangement of the same is unsymmetrical,

Be it therefore resolved, the Senate concurring therein:

Section 1. That the three stars originally appearing within the diamond be placed below the word "Arkansas," one in the lower corner of the diamond and two placed symmetrically and parallel above and to the right and left of said star, and, to make room for these three stars, the word "Arkansas" shall be raised so as to place the lower line of the letters parallel with the center of the flag, and that the meaning of these three stars be the same as the meaning of the original three as submitted by the original author, Miss Willie Hocker of Pine Bluff and as adopted under Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 11 of 1913; also that the one star representing the Confederacy shall be placed above the word "Arkansas" below the upper corner of the diamond.

Section 2. That the meaning of the flag, as stated by its



original author and officially adopted and as amended in 1923, is as follows:

The twenty-five stars show that Arkansas was the twenty-fifth State admitted to the Union, the three blue stars below "Arkansas" typify the three nations of Spain, France and the United States, to which the State successively belonged. They also indicate that it was the third State carved out of the Louisiana Purchase. Also, of these three stars the twin stars parallel with each other typify that Arkansas and Michigan are twin States, having been admitted to the Union together on June 15, 1836. The star above "Arkansas" is to commemorate the Confederacy, and the diamond signifies that this State is the only diamond-bearing State in the Union.

Section 3. The resolutions referred to in this Resolution' being the only ones passed with reference to the State Flag' are hereby amended in all matters in conflict herewith.

Approved: April 10, 1924.

#### ARKANSAS AT THE PANAMA-PACIFIC EXPOSITION (1915).

In the summer of 1915 the Panama-Pacific Exposition was held in San Francisco to celebrate the completion of the Panama Canal. The General Assembly of Arkansas in 1913 failed to make an appropriation for a state exhibit, and to wait until the next meeting of the legislature, which fell in 1915, would be too late to make the necessary preparations. Governor Geo. W. Hays called a meeting of citizens in Little Rock for February 12, 1914, in order to take the necessary steps for having Arkansas suitably represented. That meeting was unanimous in its sentiment that a fund must be raised and a collection of the state's natural and artificial resources should be sent to San Francisco. The history of the Arkansas exhibit can not, perhaps, be better told than in the words of Governor Chas. H. Brough's message to the legislature of 1921:

"Early in 1914 many of the representative citizens of our state met in Little Rock and requested Gov. Geo. W. Hays to use his efforts to see that Arkansas was represented at the Panama-Pacific Exposition. Many volunteered large con-



tributions and it was thought that the whole plan could be carried out without calling on the state for an appropriation. However, the industrial depression from which the entire country suffered in the summer of 1914, as a result of the declaration of the world's war, was such that private subscriptions could not be relied on to finance an Arkansas exhibit. Thereupon, the commission appointed by the governor wrote to all the representatives and senators elected to the 1915 General Assembly, asking them whether they would agree to support an appropriation of \$40,000 for the purpose of exhibiting the resources of our state at San Francisco. Favorable replies were received from ninety senators and representatives, stating that they would support the bill to appropriate \$40,000 for that purpose. Upon receipt of what was thought to be the necessary number of pledges, Governor Hays requested some representative citizens to lend their credit, in the shape of a note of \$500 each, payable March 1, 1915. \* \* \* \* The bill appropriating the \$40,000 was passed by a two-thirds majority of the senate of the General Assembly of 1915 and only lacked one vote of having a two-thirds majority in the house. The appropriation was contested on the ground that it would require a two-thirds majority of each house, and our Supreme Court held that because the bill lacked one vote of the necessary two-thirds in the house, it had failed to become a law.

"I presented this matter to the General Assembly of 1917 and it received the necessary two-thirds majority in the senate, but failed again in the house. The question was again brought to the attention of the General Assembly of 1919, passed the Senate by a vote of 28, to 0, and received more than two-thirds majority of those present and voting in the house, but not a two-thirds majority of the entire membership. The Supreme Court sustained the opinion of the attorney-general that an extraordinary appropriation of this character required a two-thirds membership vote of each house and the citizens of our state, who acted from such patriotic motives in 1915 will lose \$24,194 which was advanced for the honor of our state, unless legislative relief is given."

With the funds raised by private subscription and the



notes given by citizens, a capacious building was erected at San Francisco, and a representative collection of Arkansas products was in position when the exposition opened. The General Assembly of 1921 failed to make an appropriation to pay the \$24,194 mentioned by Governor Brough, and it is quite probable that the whole subject will be presented to future legislatures.

#### AN ARKANSAS SONG OFFICIALLY ADOPTED (1917).

The General Assembly, by "Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 6," adopted, January 12, 1917, the song "Arkansas" as the official state song. The resolution is as follows:

Whereas, Arkansas has never adopted officially a State Song, and

Whereas, "Arkansas" is recognized by almost all the schools of the state as the State Song,

Therefore, Be it resolved by the Senate, the House Concurring therein, that the song "Arkansas" by Mrs. Eva Ware Barnett be adopted as the State Song.

#### A R K A N S A S

I am thinking to night of the Southland,  
Of the Home of my childhood days,  
Where I roamed through the woods and the meadows,  
By the mill and brook that plays,  
Where the roses are in bloom,  
And the sweet magnolia, too,  
Where the Jasmine is white,  
And the fields are violet blue,  
There a welcome awaits all her children,  
Who have wandered a-far from home.

#### CHORUS

Arkansas, Arkansas, 'Tis a name dear,  
'Tis the place I call "Home, Sweet Home."  
Arkansas, Arkansas, I salute thee;  
From thy shelter no more I'll roam.



'Tis a land full of joy and of sunshine,  
Rich in pearls and in diamonds rare,  
Full of hope, faith and love for the stranger,  
Who may pass 'neath her portals fair;  
There the rice fields are full,  
And the cotton, corn and hay,  
There the fruits of the field,  
Bloom in Winter months and May;  
'Tis the land that I love first of all dear,  
And to her let us all give cheer.

#### ARKANSAS IN THE WORLD WAR (1917-1918).

The United States, by joint resolution of Congress, made a formal declaration of war against Germany April 6, 1917. One of the first official acts on the part of Arkansas in support of the war was that performed by Governor Charles H. Brough, agreeable to the request of President Woodrow Wilson, in the appointment of a state council of defense, to cooperate with the National Council of Defense and the National Government in the prosecution of the war. The work of the state council embraced the organization of a campaign of education for the directing of public opinion; the providing of chairmen for the food, fuel and employment administrations; the organization of the several Liberty Loan campaigns. To raise a national army, instead of relying upon the traditional plan of recruiting an army by mustering volunteers, Congress passed the Selective Service Law, which became effective May 19, 1917. On registration day, June 5, 1917, of the thousands subject to registration in Arkansas, there were but 600 in all the state, of a total of 149,627 men subject to draft as being between the ages of twenty-one and thirty-one years, who failed to register. Later, under the supplementary act of Congress of August 31, 1918, extending the draft to include those between the ages of eighteen and forty-five years, there were registered in Arkansas a total of 199,857. Of these, 51,858 were actually inducted into service. Besides, Arkansas furnished its National Guard of three regiments. The latter were trained at Camp Beauregard, Louisiana, where they were mustered into the service of the United States. The First Arkansas Infantry (National Guard) became the One Hundred and Fifty-third regiment in the National Army; the Second



Infantry became the One Hundred and Forty-second Field Artillery; and the Third Infantry formed the basis of the One Hundred and Fifty-fourth Infantry and the One Hundred and Forty-first Machine Gun Battalion. All were attached to the Thirty-ninth Division. The first unit of the division arrived in France on August 12, 1918, and the last on September 12, 1918. As soon as it became known that the war department intended to establish a number of training camps, or cantonments, the Board of Commerce of Little Rock took the necessary steps to secure the location of one of the cantonments near the city. The Army Post Development Company was organized with a capital stock of \$300,000; which company, composed of the leading business men of Little Rock and North Little Rock, bought and consolidated a number of small farms and offered the Government 3,000 acres of land in fee simple for the cantonment. In addition to this, indeterminate leases on 10,000 acres adjoining were obtained and turned over to the Government. On June 11, 1917, the war department announced that Little Rock had been selected as one of the sites for training camps, and that \$3,500,000 had been appropriated for the construction of the necessary buildings, etc. On June 23, the contract was awarded to James Stewart & Company, of New York and St. Louis. Maj. John R. Fordyce was selected to superintend the work as construction quarter-master. The cantonment was named Camp Pike, for Brig.-Gen. Zebulon M. Pike, who, as a lieutenant in the regular army, explored the Mississippi River to its source soon after the Louisiana Purchase, and later led an expedition into the Southwest, discovering and naming Pike's Peak in Colorado. It was at Camp Pike that the Eighty-Seventh division, composed of drafted men from Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi was organized and trained. Accepting the offer of the people of Lonoke to furnish a tract of 960 acres, rent free, the Government in November, 1917, began the establishment of an Aviation Field near that town. Following the custom of the war department of naming aviation schools or camps for flyers killed in service, the Lonoke camp was named for Capt. Melchior M. Eberts, who was killed while making an exhibition flight at Columbus, New Mexico, on May 8, 1917. Twenty-three young men of Arkansas were among the first to



enter this aviation school to prepare themselves for the air service abroad, but the armistice was signed before any of them were actually inducted into service. In addition to the aviation field at Lonoke, the Government expended about one million dollars on an aviation warehouse and the development of the picric acid plant at Little Rock, though neither was completed in time to be of service before the armistice was signed on November 11, 1918. The following table shows the whole number of men furnished by Arkansas for actual service:

In the United States army.....	66,437
In the navy and marine corps.....	55,359
In the coast guard.....	66

Of these were killed in action, 292; died of wounds, 112; wounded in line of duty, 1,751; died of disease, 417; accidental deaths, 16; committed suicide, 1; drowned, 2; murdered, 3; died from other known causes, 8; cause of death undetermined, 27; captured, 24; missing (presumed to be dead), 7. The total casualties sustained was 2,660. This total, however, does not include those who died in camps in the United States.

#### A NEW CONSTITUTION FRAMED (1918).

Agreeable to an act of the General Assembly of 1917, an election was held on Tuesday, June 26, 1917, for the choosing of delegates to a constitutional convention. The representation in the convention was so fixed by the act calling it as to give each county the same number of delegates that it had members in the lower house of the Assembly besides these each congressional district was given two delegates at large. The convention met on November 19, 1917, the time fixed by the convention act of the General Assembly, and organized by electing T. M. Mehaffy president. Committees were appointed to draft the various articles of a new constitution and the convention adjourned to meet the following July. At that time—July, 1918—the work of combining the reports of the committees occupied but a comparatively short time and the new constitution was ordered to be submitted to the people at a special election on December 14, 1918. Persons versed in the science of civil government regarded the new constitution



as being far more modern, more liberal and more democratic than the constitution of 1874, but the voters, it seems, took a different view. At the election there were but 23,782 votes cast in favor of its adoption, with 38,897 cast against it.

#### THE GIRLS' INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL OPENED (1919).

The act of the General Assembly of 1917, which provided for the removal of the Boys' Industrial School to a more suitable site, carried also an appropriation of \$9,000 for a Girls' Industrial School—\$3,000 for the salaries of teachers, \$5,000 for maintenance, and \$1,000 for buildings. The building allowance was purposely made small, as it was intended that the old buildings of the State Reform School should be occupied. The governor was authorized to appoint a board of managers, consisting of three women and two men. Circumstances were such as to render it impracticable to use the buildings of the old Reform School, and, in 1918, a campaign was started to raise \$100,000 "for a Girls' Industrial School and Women's Reformatory." The full amount was subscribed and \$55,000 was realized in actual cash. Congressman T. H. Caraway obtained an appropriation of \$50,000 from the United States Government. In January, 1919, an ideal location of 200 acres in Saline county, only nineteen miles from Little Rock, was purchased and the school was opened in the little dwelling already on the place.

#### THE ARKANSAS STATE FARM FOR WOMEN ESTABLISHED (1919).

Governor Charles H. Brough approved March 28, 1919, an act of the General Assembly providing for the establishment of a state reformatory for women, to be known as the "Arkansas State Farm for Women." The act provided for the appointment by the governor of nine directors, five of whom should be women. These directors were authorized to purchase a farm of not less than 120 acres to "include woodland and tillable pasture, with a natural water supply, and be located reasonably near some railroad". The act appropriated \$5,500 for salaries and \$4,500 for maintenance. The directors acquired 185 acres about two and a half miles from Jacksonville, in the northeast-



ern part of Pulaski County, the location being convenient to the main line of the Missouri Pacific Railroad. The purchase was made in 1919, though the institution was not opened until early in the year 1920.

#### OIL DISCOVERED IN ARKANSAS (1920).

Oil was discovered first in commercial quantities in Arkansas on April 10, 1920. The well, in which it was found, was drilled by S. Hunter, of Shreveport, Louisiana. Thus it was known as the "Hunter Discovery Well". Its exact location is described as "on the S E  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the N E  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 13, Twp. 15 S., Range 19 W." The town of Stephens, in Ouachita county, is situated near the well. Mr Hunter had been given leases on something like 20,000 acres in the vicinity of Stephens as an inducement to drill the well. While this particular well was never worked as a producer of oil in commercial quantities, enough was bailed from it to prove that the oil was there in paying quantities. Mr. Hunter, at all events, succeeded immediately in selling most of his acreage, including the well, to the Standard Oil Company for \$800,000 in cash and a guarantee of \$1,000,000. "from the sale of the first oil produced from the said leases." However, the Standard has never drilled another well on this acreage. The second oil well was drilled by the White Oil Corporation about eight miles southwest of El Dorado. It "came in" on December 23, 1920, with a daily flow of twenty-five barrels. But the Arkansas oil boom really had its beginning with the completion of the Mitchell & Busey well, which "came in" on January 10, 1921, with a daily production estimated at ten thousand barrels. Arkansas first appeared in the reports of the United States Geological Survey as an oil producing state in March, 1921, with 10,000 barrels as the monthly output. On July 1, 1921, Arkansas stood seventh in the list of the oil producing states, being exceeded only by California, Kansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas and Wyoming.

#### ARKANSAS CALLED "THE WONDER STATE" (1923).

The General Assembly of 1923 adopted the following resolution, known as Senate Resolution No. 2:



Whereas, it is an admitted fact that the State of Arkansas excels all others in natural resources, its store of mineral wealth being practically inexhaustible, its vast forests supplying pine and hardwoods in quantities sufficient to place the state in the forefront, and its agricultural and horticultural prowess recognized not only in the United States, but in foreign countries, as well, and

Whereas, the publicity campaign of the Arkansas Advancement Association has so indelibly stamped upon the mind of the world that Arkansas is "The Wonder State", and

Whereas, this title is so befitting, while the old one, "The Bear State" is a misnomer, and leads to a false impression, while "The Wonder State", is accurate and is deserving of special recognition:

Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved:

That we accept the name, "The Wonder State," given by this patriotic association, which has done so much to acquaint the world with Arkansas and its wealth of resource, and hereby especially proclaim that hereafter Arkansas shall be known and styled "The Wonder State."





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